

Kabul vows to retaliate against attacks

KABUL (R) — Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsalan Saturday threatened retaliation against any further cross-border attacks by Russian forces but said he would visit neighbouring Tajikistan in the next few days for talks. Russian forces protecting the Tajik border under an agreement with the Tajikistan government have bombed northern Afghanistan since Tajik rebels raided a border post on July 13, killing 25 Russian soldiers and 100 Tajik villagers. Kabul says the attacks killed or injured 300 people and displaced thousands. Afghanistan denies helping the rebels. Russia's Ius-Tax news agency quoted the Tajik embassy in Moscow as saying the Tajik and Afghan leaders planned to meet this month after talks between their foreign ministers. No confirmation of this was immediately available in Kabul. Mr. Arsalan said in an interview that the conflict between the pro-communist Tajik government and its opponents had overflowed into Afghanistan with the Russian attack. "If they continue to attack us we will have to retaliate," he said. "I have been invited for bilateral discussion (in Tajikistan) and we will start with that." (See related story on page 8)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالاشتراك مع المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الرأي

Crown Prince Hassan to visit Qatar

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will visit Qatar for two days from Sunday, the official Qatari News Agency said Saturday. It said the visit showed Jordan and Qatar wanted to strengthen brotherly ties. A Jordanian minister said last month that relations with most Gulf Arab states had improved since the Gulf war, though he saw no immediate prospect of better relations with Kuwait. The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Saturday returned to Amman after attending the funeral of King Baudouin of Belgium in Brussels. In a later dispatch, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, confirmed the visit and said it was being made in response to an invitation from Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Reinterpretation, rather than change, of Election Law is under consideration

But legal experts, even officials, are sceptical that it could be done

By Nermeen Murad and Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Officials are examining the possibility of using legal loopholes in the current Election Law to introduce the one-person-one-vote system in what is seen as a bid to evade confrontation with the opposition

over the constitutionality of introducing a new law.

Instead of amending or changing the Election Law through a provisional legislation, thus incurring the wrath of the opposition, which has said it would contest any electoral change that is not passed by Parliament, the government may use administrative provisions to bring about the desired change.

The current Election Law has been interpreted to mean that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their constituencies, even though it does not state that directly. However, sources say, the government may offer a new interpretation of the law, to mean that voters can cast their ballot for only one candidate, and enforce it through administrative orders. The government has the legal authority to issue regulations explaining the provisions of laws.

Political observers say that by effecting the change without issuing a temporary law, the gov-



Salameh Hammad: No specific proposals for amending the law. Hammad hopes to preempt attempts by the opposition to contest its decision in court if it decided to change the legislation.



Salem Masadeh: No political or legal basis for amending the law. He said the law had been interpreted to mean that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their constituencies. Any attempt to interpret the law differently would be illegal, prominent lawyer Taher Hikmat told the

But Mr. Hammad reiterated earlier government assurances that no final decision on the law had been made and the Cabinet had not yet discussed the issue.

"This subject has not been discussed by the Cabinet yet... other sides than the Ministry of Interior might be (discussing) the matter but as far as I know there is no such 'project' or any discussion of it," Mr. Hammad told a press conference Saturday.

Legal experts say it would be illegal for the government to offer a new interpretation of the law since such a move would render unconstitutional the election of parliamentarians based upon this legislation and all legislation enacted by them would have to be nullified.

"The law has been interpreted to mean that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their constituencies. Any attempt to interpret the law differently would be illegal," prominent lawyer Taher Hikmat told the

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1.34 million voters registered, page 3



HOMAGE TO KING BAUDOUIN: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Saturday participate in the funeral of King Baudouin of Belgium in Brussels (see page 10). Others in the picture include: Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed of Morocco (left), Burundi President Melchior Ndadaye (centre-right) and his wife Baudouin of Belgium in Brussels (see page 10). Kanyamweza (AFP photo)

Majali says his government is keen to serve the citizens

Prime minister urges public to write to officials

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali told a large group of businessmen Saturday night that people should participate in decision making by writing to ministers and government officials whatever recommendations they might have or adjustments they deem necessary.

Addressing the eighth session of the monthly gathering organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, Dr. Majali told the elite group of public and private sector personalities that a flow of letters with demands, recommendations and objections would weigh upon a minister or a government official to force him to examine the issues raised.

"How can we improve the system and update the performance if people don't participate but only sit to judge the performance of an authority?" Dr. Majali asked.

The prime minister emphasised that the government sees its role as that of service and not of authoritarianism. He explained that the Council of Ministers meets twice a week at 8 a.m. to review papers or



Abdul Salam Al Majali

of an authority?" Dr. Majali asked.

The prime minister emphasised that the government sees its role as that of service and not of authoritarianism. He explained that the Council of Ministers meets twice a week at 8 a.m. to review papers or

approve documents but to talk in general so as the ministers know exactly how the work flows at and in-between their ministries and to seek the best possible solutions to bottlenecks and other routine complications.

Dr. Majali revealed that during Saturday's Cabinet session, a decision was taken to change whatever regulations requiring the approval of the Council of Ministers to be tied only to the key responsible person — the minister or the prime minister, if need be.

The prime minister outlined various steps the government has taken to push economic development in the Kingdom and referred to his instructions to revive the Economic Consultative Council.

He mentioned the need to update various legislation but, at the same time, he said the personnel implementing the legislation

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One-person-one-vote seen to benefit independent traditionalists

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — If a one-person-one-vote formula for the Nov. 8 elections is adopted by the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, it may tip the political scales of the next Lower House of Parliament in favour of independent traditional candidates and away from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftist coalitions, many analysts and observers believe.

Sources from the different political parties in the country expect that their candidates stand to lose from the proposed change to the law since their voters would be able to cast only one vote for a party candidate and would not be able to double or triple the weight of that vote as was practised in the 1989 elections.

In 1989, most voters were able to cast their votes in favour of up to nine, say in Irbid, and five and four in other governorates. This in effect meant that many voters were able to cast a ballot in

favour of their tribal representative and another for their political candidate as well as other votes for candidates associated with either candidates of their preference.

Other more politically-committed voters might have cast their ballots in favour of all the political candidates of their party in that district. This served the Muslim Brotherhood movement in particular in 1989 since it was the only organised and legalised party at the time.

According to the calculations of IAF sources, the movement could secure 15 seats — eight less than what they had in the 11th Parliament — in the upcoming elections if districts remained unchanged and voters are permitted to cast only one ballot.

Leftists, putting on a brave face, publicly predict that they would be able to win 12 seats including "liberal independents." However, other independent predictions fault this

calculation by maintaining that the leftists' divisions would decrease their chances of winning any seats.

The only force, if it can be called that, which is said to stand to gain from the amendments is the more conservative tribal bloc that would seek the support of mainstream Palestinians in districts that house refugee camps.

The Palestinian vote, however, could not be assumed to be one bloc vote in itself. It might easily divide itself between support for the Islamist trend, the leftist Palestinian factions and mainstream Fateh. Most analysts expect that Fateh supporters would take a more active role in the upcoming elections — than they had in 1989 when they in effect stayed away from the polling booths — but would opt to support existing candidates who already enjoy considerable support from their own tribes.

The make-up of the 12th Parliament, however, could actually follow a different pattern of formulation than predicted above. Four other,

equally informed sources, place little confidence in Islamist claims that they would only win 15 seats as a result of the changes. These sources maintain that the change may not necessarily mean instant gains for the tribal representatives.

Analysts from all shades of opinion in fact believe that the Islamists are deliberately publicising their likely "losses" in order to conceal their real strength among the other political forces and tribal coalitions. The Islamists, or those among them, who predict the winning of 15 seats, say they may be able to win a few more if a larger number of candidates from the same tribes decide to contest the elections, thus breaking up the family consensus.

It is this particular point that in fact is leading some analysts to predict problems for tribal candidates. Without the pressure of having to secure a large percentage of the votes, tribal consensus behind one candidate could be broken by other members who feel that they have equal chances of winning under the one-person-

one-vote system.

Another fear that traditional alliances between different tribes in one district might collapse because each tribe would want to elect its own members rather than another candidate from an allied tribe.

According to usually well-informed sources, those Islamist deputies who are most likely to hold on to their seats, or be elected for the first time, if the new system is introduced are:

First District: Abdul Aziz Jabber
Second District: Abdul Munem Abu Zant
Fifth District: Daoud Kojak, Hammad Sa'id
Irbid: Ahmad Kofahi, Abdul Rahim Akour
Karak: Adnan Majali or Abdullah Majali
Zarqa: Theib Anis, Bassam Al Emoush
Balqa: Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Mohammad Owadah
Tafilah: Abdullah Akaileh

They also predict that their candidates in both the sixth district and Maan would win but they were yet unnamed.

U.S. refuses Jordan's F-5 sale to Indonesia, releases \$50m in aid

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials Saturday declined comment on a reported rejection by the U.S. government of Jordan's request for permission to sell American-made F-5 planes to Indonesia, but informed sources said the U.S. move came as no surprise. At the same time, the sources also confirmed that Washington had released \$50 million in frozen assistance to Jordan for fiscal year 1993 after formal procedures related to clearance from Congress were completed.

According to the sources, the rejection of the F-5 deal was partly based on Washington's concern for the human rights record of Indonesia and that it had no bearing on U.S.-Jordanian relations.

"We knew we were heading into trouble in Congress over the proposed sale since Washington was citing human rights concerns," said an informed Jordanian source. "But our counter-argument had been that how much human rights can anyone violate with F-5 planes."

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the King-

dom filed its request to Washington for permission to sell up to four American-built F-5s to Indonesia earlier this year. One of the preconditions of the original American sales of the jets to Jordan was that the Kingdom would not resell them without Washington's approval.

The deal is estimated to be worth \$25 million. Jordan is modernising its armed forces and is seeking to update some of military equipment.

According to an unidentified State Department official quoted by Reuters, "the combination of a number of sensitive issues in this case made approval impossible... including human rights concerns in Indonesia."

No indication was available on any other considerations, however. But the American official was also quoted as saying the department did not consider the decision a precedent and that Jordan and Indonesia could be considered favourably for transfers of U.S.-built arms at another time.

"Jordan, for no fault of its own, seems to have been caught up in the running conflict between Indonesia and the U.S. over human rights," said a diplomatic source, noting

that the U.S. suspended some military cooperation with Jakarta in 1991 after an incident where Indonesian security forces opened fire on a crowd of mourners.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month raised concerns about the human rights situation in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony taken over by Indonesia.

Jakarta counters charges of human rights violations by insisting that it should not be judged by Western principles and ideals. It says the stability and prosperity of society as a whole is as important as the rights of individuals.

In a dispatch from Jakarta, Reuters Saturday quoted a Ministry of Defence official as saying that the government had not received formal notification of Washington's rejection of the reported Jordanian-Indonesian deal.

"As in the past, we will try not to depend on one party only," the official was quoted as saying. "If it (American rejection of the proposed sale) happens, we will make another effort."

No immediate comment was available from the Indonesian embassy in Amman.

Senior Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times declined comment on the

affair. "It is an American-Indonesian affair and I have to comment on it," said a senior member in the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Meanwhile, other sources said formalities related to the release of \$50 million in economic aid and military assistance to Jordan had been completed in Washington.

"We have finalised the details regarding all outstanding aid for fiscal 1992, totalling about \$50 million," said one source.

The source said the administration has to provide certain certification to Congress before aid for fiscal 1993 could be released.

The certifications relate to Jordan's enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq and the Kingdom's contribution to the Middle East peace process.

American aid to Jordan for 1993 totals \$56.8 million comprising of \$15 million in economic support funds, \$30 million in food assistance, and \$10.8 million in military aid.

The administration has allocated \$19 million — \$10 million in economic support funds and \$9 million in military assistance — to Jordan for fiscal 1994.

Kuwait wants to gift 3 Boeings to Syria but Washington may say no

By Robert Keatley
The Wall Street Journal

KUWAIT, grateful for Syria's support in the war against Iraq, no longer needs some older airliners. So it wants to donate three Boeing 727s to Damascus.

The donation would help nudge open a cloistered Syrian society and might even promote the cause of political moderation. And wealthy Kuwait gains goodwill for its generosity... Everyone gains.

Enter the U.S. State Department, which may scuttle the arrangement.

Under U.S. law, because these aging planes incorporate more-or-less modern American technology, not just anyone can have them, even as giveaways from others. And because Syria is on an official American list of countries which support international "terrorists," it is among the ineligible unless Washington specifically rules otherwise. In this case, after two months of pondering, the State Department has not made up its mind.

Lebanese army poised to deploy in south

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese troops will start deploying in frontlines in the south in 48 hours, senior political sources said Saturday.

The army command had completed final preparations for the deployment of thousands of troops in 70 villages in an area policed by U.N. peacekeepers, the sources told Reuters.

The Lebanese government last week ordered the army into villages facing Israel's self-declared "security zone" after a U.S.-mediated ceasefire halted a week-long Israeli air and artillery bombardment of the south.

The sources said the deployment was aimed at maintaining security in villages used by pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas to attack Israeli forces in the zone.

Lebanese officials, who say resistance to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon is legitimate, have said the army would not disarm the guerrillas or stop them from attacking Israeli forces.

Lebanese Defence Minister Mohsen Dallul travelled to Damascus to consult with leaders of Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, about plans to deploy the army in areas from where the guerrillas launched attacks on Israel.

Syria was convinced particularly by parliamentary leader Nabih Berri about the need for the deployment, a colleague of Mr. Berri's said.

Mr. Berri heads the pro-Syrian Amal movement, which rivals Hizbollah for influence among the Shi'ite Muslims of South Lebanon.

"The suffering the people endured under a week of Israeli bombardment must lead to something. Lebanon cannot just be happy with a ceasefire and turn

Hamas claims attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas carried out an attack that left two Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian dead, a caller claiming to belong to the movement said Saturday.

Ezzedin Al Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas, carried out Friday's attack on the soldiers near the occupied West Bank village of Beir Balfut, the anonymous caller told an international news agency here.

Two soldiers were killed by the attackers, while a third soldier returned fire, killing one of the guerrillas. Another attacker was captured, while a third fled in a car.

General Schmueel Arad, the head of operations for the chief of staff, said earlier that he believed Hamas was behind the attack.

Deputy Defence Minister Moti Gur told Israeli radio meanwhile that attacks against Israelis in the occupied territories would increase with progress in the Middle East peace talks, which are opposed by Hamas and other fundamentalist groups.

"We are going to witness a wave of attacks against civilians and soldiers in the (occupied) territories as the peace process advances," Mr. Gur said.

"This situation forces us to rethink our methods for curbing attacks, although some have already been improved," he said, without elaborating.

The body of another Israeli soldier was found Friday. He had been kidnapped and killed while hitch-hiking on the West Bank.

The Islamic Jihad in Palestine Saturday claimed responsibility for an attack in which two Israeli soldiers were injured on the occupied West Bank.

Somali clan elders sign peace accord

KISMAYU (Agencies) — Jubaland elders from some 20 Somali clans have signed a United Nations-brokered peace accord, urging rival militias in the south of the country to disarm and cooperate with U.N. peacekeepers.

But neither of the two main militias at whom the agreement was directed were represented at the formal signing ceremony in the southern port of Kismayu.

"We have to forgive and forget the past. This is the first step towards peace. We must continue until we rebuild our nation," said Aden Abdullah Osman, the country's first president at independence in 1960, who also attended.

The elders are the traditional arbiters of disputes in Somalia and the U.N. is keen to enhance their authority as a counterweight to the warlords holding the country to ransom.

Some 154 clan elders from Somalia's southern Juba region, one of the worst-hit by three years of brutal clan feuding, turned out for the formal ceremony at Kismayu airport.

Mogadishu warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad, and the head of the U.N. in Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, attended.

But faction leader Colonel Omar Jess, deputy to Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, and his blood rival General Mohammed Said Hersi "Morgan" were nowhere to be seen.

Mr. Ali Mahdi is General Aided's arch-enemy. Political analysts said his presence at the Kismayu ceremony was a risky move on the U.N.'s part and would align the world body with his clan faction in the eyes of Aided supporters.

"This conference is an example of how Somalis should resolve their problems," Mr. Ali Mahdi said. "Let us help the U.N. to help us rebuild our nation, a nation devoid of hatred, clan differences and war."

Adm. Howe, applauded by hundreds of Somalis packing the ceremony at Kismayu airport, urged those present to respect the Kismayu accord.

"You must concentrate on disarming and restoring law and order in your land. You must use the mechanisms you have established to allow you to resolve property and disputes and to live together again in peace as good neighbours," he said.

Outside, hundreds of Somalis chanted and sang peace songs. Some carried placards of support for "Morgan".

Feuding warlords led Somalia into anarchy and famine after rebels overthrew dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991.

The agreement follows over a month of U.N.-sponsored negotiations between the elders, who traditionally negotiated peace in feuds, over grazing and water rights for nomadic herds by agreeing compensation in the

form of blood money.

But it was not clear how much control they had over the armed faction fighters who have become a law unto themselves.

The U.N. brokered two rounds of peace talks between the factions earlier this year, but ethnic tensions are still high.

Col. Jess, whose faction is dominated by the small Mohammed Zubeir clan, is opposed to a coalition of clans from the Darod clan family.

Gen. "Morgan", Mr. Siad Barre's son-in-law and former defence minister, has loose control over the Darod fighters.

The banks of the Juba River that runs into the Indian Ocean close to Kismayu are among the most fertile lands in Somalia and many farmers from the peaceful local clans were evicted by warlike invaders from other clans in 1991.

The clan elders' accord calls for the restoration of all stolen property and for free movement in the region.

Internal U.N. dispute

An attack by U.N. forces last month on a villa occupied by Aided supporters has drawn sharp criticism from within the United Nations.

The July 12 raid "raises important legal and human rights issues," the Justice Division of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) said in a memorandum leaked to reporters in Nairobi.

The memo was addressed to Adm. Howe, who heads UNOSOM as the special representative of the U.N. secretary-general.

Adm. Howe has repeatedly defended the daylight helicopter and ground assault on the villa in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, that killed 54 people.

Adm. Howe contends that Gen. Aided's "council of war" was meeting inside the building and that fewer than 20 people died.

Supporters of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA), a clan-based political organisation, say the meeting was a gathering of politicians and clan elders, not a war council.

Four journalists were killed by an enraged mob when they visited the scene shortly after the



A one-legged Somali boy and his wheelchair-ridden father watch the queue at a Saudi-Islamic food distribution centre on the green line dividing the Somali capital (AFP photo)

attack.

The memo to Adm. Howe from his own justice division asked whether the U.N. Security Council had authorised such an attack.

The memo also questioned whether U.N. forces should use military tactics that are more likely to kill people than successfully detain suspects.

"In essence," the memo said, "the question is whether the U.N. should hold itself to a higher standard of conduct towards the civilian population it has been asked to assist than the standard of conduct" some peacekeeping forces would use in their own countries.

The memo noted that some of the more than two dozen nations that have contributed troops to the U.N. force in Somalia "have

varying levels of actions they consider appropriate and acceptable in dealing with civilians in their own countries."

The memo said the attack heightened hostility to the United Nations among Somalis and increased the danger to unprotected personnel of the United Nations, charitable organisations and the media.

The assault has led to escalated attacks on U.N. military forces in the past month. Seven U.S. soldiers have been wounded by Somali gunmen in just the past week.

Gen. Aided has been held responsible by the United Nations for a series of ambushes on June 5 that killed 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. Adm. Howe has ordered his arrest and put a \$25,000 reward on his head.

Lebanese kidnapper returns home

and Mr. Kempner in June 1992 capped months of United Nations-led negotiations to free all the Western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon in the 1980s.

The United States offered thousands of dollars for information leading to the arrest of people who kidnapped Americans in Lebanon but none have been apprehended. Most of those who kidnapped westerners were linked to Hizbollah.

The time Mr. Abbas spent in jail, six and a half years including time spent on remand before trial, is the minimum required under German law.

German justice officials say there are no plans to release Mohammad Ali, who was jailed in 1989 for hijacking a TWA plane to Beirut in 1985. A U.S. diver was killed on the plane.

Mohammad Ali, 29, must serve at least 15 years before he is eligible for parole.

Journalists caught up with Hamadi at Hizbollah's Great Prophet Mosque near the airport, where his mother and other family members were waiting for him.

Ali and Fatima Hamadi hugged their son, tears streaming down their faces. His German wife, wearing a scarf, followed them into the mosque.

Mr. Hamadi then recited the first verse of the Koran before shaking hands with all eight parliament members of Hizbollah.

The reunion lasted about 10 minutes after which Mr. Hamadi left with his family to an undetermined destination.

A police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Hamadi is not wanted on any charge in Lebanon.

The government issued an amnesty in 1991 for crimes committed during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and is expected to resolve shortly whether this amnesty covered Mr. Hamadi.

Mr. Hamadi is believed to have headed either no Abdul Hadi's house in south Beirut or straight to his parents' home in the village of Sowaneh in south Lebanon.

Mr. Hamadi figured in one of

the most spectacular affairs to hit Germany in years.

Mr. Hamadi was arrested Jan. 26, 1987 at Frankfurt airport, where his brother Mohammad Ali Hamadi was taken into custody 13 days earlier.

A Dusseldorf court sentenced him to 13 years for the capture of Mr. Cordes and Mr. Schmidt in January 1987. Both were released months later.

The abduction was designed to barter the two German hostages for the freedom of his brother Mohammad Ali, who was sentenced in May 1987 to life imprisonment for the 1985 hijacking.

There has been widespread speculation that Mr. Abbas was freed as part of a deal with the Bonn government that led to the release of German hostages in Lebanon.

But Federal Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger told German national television Friday "there was no deal," repeating the government's long-standing denial of the speculation.

Though not eligible for parole, Mr. Abbas was given early release under a law that permits a foreigner to be set free and immediately deported.

Abbas Hamadi, a Hizbollah member, left the maximum-security penitentiary in the far western state of Saarland at 7:30 a.m. (5:30 GMT) in a police convoy headed for Frankfurt airport.

Two members of the German border police escorted him onto the MEA airfield that took off at 3 p.m. (1:00 GMT).

The United States had demanded Mohammad's extradition. However, the Bonn government refused on the grounds that the country's law bans handing over defendants to countries where they could face the death penalty.

Washington has no direct interest in Abbas Hamadi but has been watching the case because his brother killed a U.S. citizen.

Iran intervened strongly with Germany in an attempt to gain the release of both Hamadi brothers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen steal explosives from Cairo stores

CAIRO (AFP) — Armed men stole two truckloads of explosives from a warehouse north of the Egyptian capital amid growing concern over Islamic militant bombings, police said. Six gunmen late Friday broke into a quarry company's warehouse in Abu Zaabal, 30 kilometres north of here, and "seized a large quantity of material used to make explosives as well as 1,000 metres of fuse," police said. They shot a guard twice in the shoulder after he tried to stop them. Security services detained several people for questioning, but it was not clear if the incident was carried out by Islamic militants blamed for a series of fatal bombings in Cairo this year. It came two days after police arrested 30 militants in the same region.

Turkey seizes 1.4 tonnes of hashish

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security forces have seized 1,354 kilograms of hashish in southeast Turkey and arrested five people, Anatolian news agency said. It said the street value of the haul, confiscated on Wednesday, was \$1.1 million.

Protest in Chad after civilians slain

N'DJAMENA (R) — At least one demonstrator was killed in the town of Abeche in eastern Chad Friday when angry residents rioted in protest at the slaying of scores of civilians on Wednesday, government sources said. They said hundreds of protesters sacked the police and customs stations and looted bars. Security forces shot dead at least one person and wounded five, the sources said in the capital N'Djamena. According to the latest official death toll, 64 civilians were killed and 80 wounded on Wednesday in a village about 100 kilometres from Abeche. The government blamed "a group of armed men" without saying whether they were soldiers or rebels. It sent a commission of inquiry to the area, close to the border with Sudan. Chad's human rights league said in a statement on Thursday that 68 civilians were killed when armed men attacked them at a crowded weekly market.

Four Iranians flee Cyprus prison

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police were searching on Saturday for four young Iranians who escaped from Nicosia's central prison one day before they were to be deported. "We believe they are still on the island and we are going to get them. We are amazed at how they managed to escape," a police spokesman told Reuters. "They must have left sometime on Friday afternoon before dinner time. They were to be sent home today. Their visas had expired," he added. The four were arrested on Tuesday. Police could not say if they were students or guest workers. Four prison guards were detained after the escape.

Kuwait to sign defence pact with Russia

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait will sign a defence pact with Russia next month, Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah was quoted Saturday as saying. Sheikh Ali said he will leave for Moscow on Sept. 23 to sign an agreement that was originally scheduled to be signed this month, Al Anba newspaper reported. The signing was postponed at Russia's request. Since Kuwait's liberation in 1991 from seven months of Iraqi occupation, the emirate has signed 10-year military agreements with the United States, Britain and France. All three countries are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

U.N. envoy meets Sudanese foreign minister

KHARTOUM (R) — Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh has met the special U.N. envoy for humanitarian affairs in Sudan, Verrier Traxler, and said his government was supplying food and other aid to war-torn southern Sudan. He told Mr. Traxler on Friday that the government had supported United Nations relief efforts in southern Sudan by supplying 153,000 tonnes of sorghum, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. He added that his government had signed many agreements dealing with the supply of relief aid to southern Sudan. Mr. Traxler, an Italian who arrived in Khartoum on Thursday, has toured several African capitals to persuade Sudan's neighbours to press Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army to give aid workers more access to famine-hit areas. Relief agencies say up to two million people risk starvation. Sudan had previously refused to receive Mr. Traxler, who was appointed last May, because of the ambiguity surrounding his mission. Mr. Abu Saleh said in June that if he visited Sudan for relief and humanitarian work, he was welcome. But if he was on a political assignment, then he had no role to play in Sudan.

U.S. court does not say how long Demjanjuk could stay

CINCINNATI (AP) — A federal appeals court refused to say how long John Demjanjuk can stay in the United States if he is allowed to leave Israel. The Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of appeals on Friday rejected a Justice Department request that Demjanjuk be kicked out of the United States as soon as the court's investigation into his 1986 extradition to Israel is over. But the court also rejected a request from Demjanjuk's lawyers that he be allowed to stay in the United States indefinitely. The court is to hear arguments on the extradition on Sept. 3. It said it would decide after that how long Demjanjuk can stay. On Tuesday, the court said Demjanjuk, 73, should be allowed to return to the United States during its investigation.

Mediators press on to free hostages

MUS, Turkey (AFP) — Mediators trying to free six western hostages held by Kurdish rebels blamed the Turkish security forces Saturday for the failure of their efforts. Mediator Ismet Inset, editor of the Turkish Daily News, said in this southeast town that had made two attempts in the past three days to secure the release of the tourists — four Frenchmen, a Briton and an Australian woman — kidnapped by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in eastern Turkey last month. Both attempts had failed owing to the Turkish army's security measures, said Mr. Inset. "When on Thursday we went to the place where the hostages were supposed to be released, we found it was surrounded by Turkish security forces," Mr. Inset told AFP. His fellow mediators are Bernard Granjon, head of the French aid organisation Medecins du Monde, and Yavuz Onen, director of the Turkish Human Rights Foundation.

UAE marks anniversary of its unity architect

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday marked 27 years of the accession to the throne by its ruler Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, who unified seven impoverished sheikhdoms into a prosperous state.

More than two million flags and lamps adorned the streets and the country's rulers marked the occasion with pledges to stick to the merger that has survived several setbacks during its 22-year life.

Sheikh Zayed, whose name hit world headlines over the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), took over as ruler of Abu Dhabi on Aug. 6, 1966, after a tribal decision found his elder brother, Sheikh Shakhbut, unfit to rule.

He is credited with steering the formerly impoverished Gulf sheikhdoms into a lasting unity just after Britain ended its presence in the region in 1971.

When Britain quit the region, ending more than 150 years of colonial rule, Sheikh Zayed began to shuttle between the six neighbouring sheikhdoms and after a few weeks of intensive contacts, he succeeded in creating a new state.

On Dec. 2, 1971, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah and Umm Al Qaiwain agreed to merge into a federation. A year later, Ras Al Khaimah, which overlooks the strategic Hormuz Straits, joined the union.

The UAE is still run by an interim constitution, under which Sheikh Zayed was re-elected president for the fourth term in 1991 and Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the largest members of the federation, control the key federal cabinet posts.

Born in 1917, Sheikh Zayed

took over when oil had just been discovered, and money started to flow into his coffers. He used the wealth to transform the small desert oases into one of the most modern states in the Middle East.

The UAE now has one of the highest — per capita incomes in the world, standing at \$18,000. Its economy is one of the fastest with the gross domestic product jumping to \$35 billion in 1992 from \$1.4 billion in 1971.

Before oil was discovered, the UAE depended on fishing and pearling. But it suffered from its worst economic setback in the early 1930s, when the world pearl market collapsed after Japan invented cultured pearls.

Ironically, Japan is now one of the main contributors to the UAE's riches as it spends more than \$6 billion a year on oil and gas.

Only Abu Dhabi and Dubai produce oil while the other emirates depend mainly on the federal budget and other allocations from the wealthier members. Abu Dhabi and Dubai also control most of the levers of political power in the emirates. Diplomats cite this as the main factor for the survival of the federation.

"I do not see any reason why the union should collapse like other Arab merger experiments when the majority members are benefiting," an Arab diplomat said. "What also helps is the strong similarity in their traditions and their close relationship before the federation."

The merger of the seven emirates is the longest union experiment in the Arab World. Other unions, such as the United Arab Republic formed by Egypt and Syria between 1958 and 1961, collapsed just a few years after they were established.

Rafsanjani to change 6 ministers

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is expected to change six cabinet ministers on Sunday, including defence and interior, Iranian radio reported on Saturday.

Mr. Rafsanjani, 58, was sworn in for his second term as president on Wednesday.

The official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted reliable sources as saying he would soon change the ministers of defence, interior, commerce, housing and health.

But Tehran Radio, quoting informed sources, said "six new ministers are expected to be on the president's list to be given to the Majlis."

The six also included the road and transport minister, it said.

Neither the radio nor IRNA mentioned any expected changes in the Oil Ministry, currently headed by Gholamreza Agazadeh. Iran is the second largest producer in the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

IRNA said Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharat, who for years has been involved in Tehran's efforts to ease often tense ties with its Gulf Arab neighbours, was expected to become interior minister.

It said a former governor of Khuzestan Province, General Mohammad Farouzanmehr, would be nominated to replace current Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Minister Akbar Torak.

Iran, starved of spare parts for its Western military hardware purchased before the 1979 Islamic revolution, has embarked on an ambitious rearmament programme since the end of its 1980-88 war with Iraq.

It has since concluded several huge deals including the purchase of Russian fighter jets and submarines.

Lebanese kidnapper returns home

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Abbas Hamadi, the only man ever arrested for kidnapping Westerners in Lebanon, returned a free man to Beirut from a German jail Friday and was whisked off to a family reunion.

A convoy carrying officials of the pro-Iranian movement Hizbollah and members of the Hamadi family left Beirut airport at high speed about 30 minutes after a scheduled flight with Mr. Abbas aboard arrived from Frankfurt.

The convoy included Mr. Abbas's father Ali, who was smiling, and his elder brother Abdul Hadi. Hizbollah's security chief.

Police at the airport stopped journalists seeing 34-year-old Abbas, deported by Germany on Friday after serving half his 13-year prison term for kidnapping two German businessmen.

He was later taken to a hospital in Beirut's southern suburbs, a bastion of Hizbollah (Party of God) for a checkup.

He became angry when Hizbollah members stopped photographers taking pictures of him and said they should be allowed to do so.

Mr. Abbas, a Shiite Muslim, was jailed in 1988 for kidnapping businessman Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt in Beirut in 1987 in an attempt to win freedom for his younger brother, Mohammad Ali, who is serving life in Germany for kidnapping and murder.

The two businessmen were later released unharmed.

Family supporters seized German aid workers Thomas Kempner and Heinrich Struebig in southern Lebanon in May 1989 in an attempt to force the release of both Hamadi brothers.

Mr. Kempner and Mr. Struebig were freed in June 1992 after more than three years of confinement. Germany insists no deal was made with the kidnappers but it reunited the two brothers in Saarbruecken prison in what it called a humanitarian gesture.

The release of Mr. Struebig

and Mr. Kempner in June 1992 capped months of United Nations-led negotiations to free all the Western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon in the 1980s.

The United States offered thousands of dollars for information leading to the arrest of people who kidnapped Americans in Lebanon but none have been apprehended. Most of those who kidnapped westerners were linked to Hizbollah.

The time Mr. Abbas spent in jail, six and a half years including time spent on remand before trial, is the minimum required under German law.

German justice officials say there are no plans to release Mohammad Ali, who was jailed in 1989 for hijacking a TWA plane to Beirut in 1985. A U.S. diver was killed on the plane.

Mohammad Ali, 29, must serve at least 15 years before he is eligible for parole.

Journalists caught up with Hamadi at Hizbollah's Great Prophet Mosque near the airport, where his mother and other family members were waiting for him.

Ali and Fatima Hamadi hugged their son, tears streaming down their faces. His German wife, wearing a scarf, followed them into the mosque.

Mr. Hamadi then recited the first verse of the Koran before shaking hands with all eight parliament members of Hizbollah.

The reunion lasted about 10 minutes after which Mr. Hamadi left with his family to an undetermined destination.

A police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Hamadi is not wanted on any charge in Lebanon.

The government issued an amnesty in 1991 for crimes committed during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and is expected to resolve shortly whether this amnesty covered Mr. Hamadi.

Mr. Hamadi is believed to have headed either no Abdul Hadi's house in south Beirut or straight to his parents' home in the village of Sowaneh in south Lebanon.

Mr. Hamadi figured in one of

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le monde est à vous
18:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Stop By Step
21:30 The Trials of Life
22:00 News in English
22:30 French series

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:30 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:31 'Asr
19:13 Maghrib
20:59 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifels, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Arcadian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assyrian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824528

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 649232

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 20 / 32

Amman 24 / 40

Aqaba 15 / 34

Jerusalem 23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Saad Tawfiq 788285

Dr. Mustafa Hrizallah 826024

Dr. Riqi Abu Zein 894235

Fire pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairook pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yasoub pharmacy 64945



6TH ANNUAL YOUNG WOMEN'S GATHERING: Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday inaugurated the 6th annual national gathering of young Jordanian women living abroad. The gathering, which is opened annually by the Queen, was sponsored by Ministry of Youth and was held at the permanent Youth Camp in Ajloun. Established in 1986, the camp aims at increasing national socio-cultural awareness among young Jordanian women living abroad. By encouraging cultural communication among such women, it enriches their knowledge about their country's scientific, cultural and historic heritages. This year's gathering hosted 110 Jordanian women between the ages of 18-27, of whom 30 were from Jordanian universities and the rest from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain among other countries. Following short speeches delivered by Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat as well as by two other participating members, the Queen toured the camp site accompanied by Camp Director Rawdah Qoursha. Upon arrival in Ajloun, Queen Noor was received by Mr. Oweidat, the secretary-general of the ministry of youth, the governor of Irbid, the district governor of Ajloun, as well as the chief of police. Accompanying Her Majesty were Princess Rania Abdullah and Princess Basma Ali (Petra photo)

Cabinet forms various delegations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday formed a delegation, led by Michel Maro, the deputy governor of the Central Bank, to travel to the U.K. to negotiate with the London Club a final agreement on rescheduling Jordan's foreign debt.

The Cabinet Saturday also formed a delegation to negotiate the purchase of 100,000 tonnes of Syrian barley for Jordanian markets. The team will be led by Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim.

The Council of Ministers also agreed that Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghazawi will visit Indonesia in response to an official invitation earlier extended to Jordan.

Mr. Ghazawi, who will be accompanied by a delegation including the director general of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), plans to study Indonesia's measures in controlling the labour market, its vocational training programmes and occupational safety measures. The delegation will also tour several factories.

In addition, the ministers decided to exempt the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) from applying the Civil Service Commission employment regulations and said the (CVDB) will have to draw up its own system within three months.

Voter registration reaches 1.34 m; last day to sign up is Aug. 15

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Saturday said that 1.34 million citizens have registered to vote in the Nov. 8 parliamentary election.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Hammad said about 315,000 new voters have registered since July 1, adding to the 1.03 million who were registered for the last election in November 1989.

The minister said he expected that of the 1.6 million citizens eligible to vote, more would sign up before Aug. 15, when registration will be officially closed.

Mr. Hammad explained the preparatory procedures for the coming elections as follows:

First: verifying the lists of voters (which started on Aug. 1), will continue until September 26.

Second: dividing constituencies into sub-districts, setting up balloting centres, distributing voter cards and reviewing citizens' challenges related to registration will take place between September 27 until Nov. 1.

Third: nomination of election supervisory officials will last for 40 days, starting Sept. 29.



Young citizens register to vote while a still the Kingdom's parliamentary election is 19 younger election enthusiasts reads up on procedures. The minimum age for voting in (File photo)

Expansion planned for Zarqa free zone

ZARQA (Petra) — With the growing demand for land at the free zone near Zarqa, the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) has announced a tender for the development of 300 dunums to include the required infrastructure for projects, according to Riad Arafat, the FZC director in Zarqa.

Mr. Arafat said the FZC in Zarqa has witnessed increased demand by investors to set up factories and storage facilities for goods that are normally re-exported.

Following the Gulf crisis and despite the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq which have adversely affected shipping operations to Jordan's port of Aqaba, the FZC in Zarqa has seen a flurry of import-export activity, said Mr. Arafat.

It is certain that the stable political situation and security in Jordan have attracted a great number of investors to the free zones, Mr. Arafat maintained.

He added that the Zarqa FZC assumes importance as it lies near the international routes linking Jordan with neighbouring Arab countries.

The Zarqa zone, which has an area of \$5.5 million square metres, currently comprises 15 factories with a total JD 28 million capital, stores and warehouses for merchants with a JD 68 million capital, exhibition grounds and open storage facilities, in addition to car parks, auto show facilities, offices and other related services.

The FZC has recently built 10 large warehouses taking up a total area of 4,000 square metres to help importers store their goods before re-exporting them, said Mr. Arafat.

Furthermore, to facilitate transportation and exports, the FZC plans to construct a car park on a 40 dunums.

Statistics show sharp rise in property tax receipts

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The recent statistics from the Department of Land and Surveys reveal a marked increase in the amount of property tax collected, compared to the same period (January through June) last year.

The tax is proportional to the price, and is paid both when buying (2%) and selling (6%). Although these increases have been felt in most areas of Jordan, Amman has experienced some of the largest.

Notable rises in the city occurred in the central zones from JD 4,891,293 to JD 5,790,519 (18.4%) and in the south region, from JD 2,302,095 to JD 3,421,514 (48%). Such increases have taken place over a period of relatively low inflation, which is currently 4.92%.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Husam Azar, director of statistics at the Land and Surveys Department, commented: "The increase has occurred despite a slight reduction in the number of transactions and thus reflect growth in property prices."

Land is officially defined as "non-zoned" where areas of less than four or 10 dunums cannot be sold separately and development is restricted to agricultural purposes, and "zoned" where such restrictions do not apply.

It is in the non-zoned areas that increases have been greatest.

Mr. Azar cited an example of a plot on the Queen Alia Airport Road that had rocketed in value from JD 1,500 a dunum to around JD 10,000 in just eleven months.

When asked by the Jordan Times whether at such a price the land could be a viable agricultural site, Zeid Abdul Hadi of the Jordan Property Consultants explained that "much of the increased demand seen over the last two years had not come from those wishing to farm the land for profit but from family's wishing to own a second home."

In the zoned regions of Amman city, the largest rise have been experienced in the affluent western areas of Abdoun, Sweifeh and Um Utheina and the commercial centres of Gardens Street and Mecca Street.

Mr. Abdul Hadi said, two years ago, a dunum of land on Mecca Street could be purchased for between JD 70,000 to JD 100,000.

It is difficult to pinpoint any over-riding factor to explain the boom that erupted after the Gulf crisis. As with almost all facets of the Middle East, property prices are affected by political events, and it is generally accepted that influx of nearly 300,000 expatriates returning from the Gulf states put pressure on the housing market in Amman.

Beyond this, experts disagreed. Mr. Azar believed that much of the inflated demand on the Queen Alia Airport Road was based on speculation that in the future these areas would become zoned, though he stressed that the ministry had no plans to do this.

On the other hand, Mr. Abdul Hadi highlighted the inflow of foreign investment, predominantly in the west of the city.

He also agreed that recent increases in demand for land around Petra and other archaeological sites, reflect a confidence in the future of the tourist industry.

Property prices are notoriously difficult to predict, as most consultants maintain though it seems unlikely that plots will decrease in value in the near future.

There is general agreement that political stability in the region will ameliorate trade and industry, boost demand for property and inevitably increase prices still further.



Building starts have soared in the Kingdom in the past few years and contractors are urging the abidance of related laws

Contractors union seeks to end violations of related law by investors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) is taking measures to end violations of the Contractors Law and has formed inspection teams to examine construction projects, according to JCA President Khalil Haddadin.

He said in a statement to the Jordan news agency, Petra, that most people building apartment blocs are not contractors but investors seeking to construct housing units and sell them to the public; a violation of the contractors law which restricts such practice to licensed contractors.

Mr. Haddadin said that the

liquidity in the Jordanian banks has encouraged investors to direct their funds towards construction.

Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) President Husni Abu Ghaida agreed with Mr. Haddadin that the Gulf crisis and the return of expatriates initially contributed to the increased construction.

Abu Ghaida called on the government and the JEA to create logical and comprehensive national housing plan that will deal with the housing problem in the Kingdom.

The JEA last year gave licences

for more than six million square metres of construction, up from \$4.018 million in 1991 and 2.64 million in 1986.

Despite this increase, tens of thousands of flats built in the western district of Amman remain vacant, according to Mr. Haddadin.

The construction of one square metre of building cost JD 45 before the Gulf war, but the cost has risen to JD180, he added.

The Housing Bank, the largest money-lending institution in the country, last year granted 6,624 loans to the public and investors, worth JD 92 million, up from

JD 40 million in 1991, according to the JEA.

Mohammad Asfour, Chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce agreed that this year's increase in construction was extraordinary. Some estimates put the investment in construction during 1993 at JD 1.5 billion, he added.

Mr. Asfour said it is clear that the supply far exceeds the demand.

He called for measures to direct part of the remittances from abroad as well as the savings brought in by the expatriates towards other economic sectors.

Minister urges charity attention towards remote, poor areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sgour Saturday called on social charity organisations operating in Jordan to perform their role in the social development process in remote and less fortunate areas in the Kingdom, basing their work on surveys conducted by the ministry.

Dr. Sgour said the development process is an integrated one, with the individual as its basic unit. He stressed that the role of voluntary societies does not end at a certain point, but exceeds to launching ventures

that would increase family incomes and take care of the handicapped.

At a meeting with representatives of foreign charitable societies in Jordan, attended by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, Dr. Sgour affirmed that the work of charities should be based on extending assistance to those most in need first.

Discussion at the meeting centred on the societies' budgets and the need for them to inform the ministry of their financial situation and resources.

The minister and the audience also discussed the prospect of establishing cement water containers in Al Rishheh, Bir Mathkur, Rajma, Qureiqra, and Qatir, all in Wadi Araba region.

Several societies expressed readiness to participate in these works which will be significant to the development process in these villages.

They also discussed the prospect of offering cash and in-kind assistance to people who were forced to leave their houses in South Lebanon because of the recent Israeli attacks there.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Court advisors appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Eid Al Fayed and Asem Ghosheh as advisors at the Royal Court.

Parents of handicapped to be trained

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chairman of the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society, Sunday visited Al Mafraq Governorate House and met with Governor Qafan Al Majali. Prince Ra'd and Mr. Majali discussed services offered to the handicapped in the governorate and preparations for holding a meeting of Jordanian and Swedish experts, parents of handicapped persons and volunteers in Mafraq in the beginning of September. The meeting will discuss the society's plans to train parents and volunteers on ways of caring for the handicapped and offering them medical services at home. Prince Ra'd said the society's plans to provide these families and volunteers with technical information and train them on how to convey the information to the handicapped individual to reduce the effects of his/her disability in daily activities. Mafraq governorate was selected to carry out the plan first, before being implemented in other parts of the Kingdom later, Prince Ra'd explained.

Minister urges well water sampling

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish affirmed the importance of working within an institutionalised framework and as one team in the ministry. During a visit to Al Ramtha Water Department, Mr. Kakish also stressed the importance of digging wells and taking water samples from them to be tested at the ministry's laboratories. The ministry, he said, always tests water samples taken from wells to ensure that they are potable. He announced that a tender to replace the old water pipelines in Ramtha will be offered soon. Mr. Kakish said the ministry will also

start pumping water from Al Mahasi well in Ramtha after ensuring that the water source conforms to the ministry's standards and specifications. The minister expected that this additional source will help solve the water shortage problem in the Ramtha district.

Customs on certain vehicles due Aug. 16

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Department Saturday called on Jordanians who returned from Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries in the wake of the Gulf crisis to pay the mandatory customs duty due on their cars and vehicles before the expiry of the deadline set by the Cabinet on Aug. 16. Sources at the department said the deadline is final and will not be extended. Failure to pay will result in impoundment of the car for auction.

RSS holds seminar on detergents

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day training seminar organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) started Saturday. Participants will hear lectures on materials used in the manufacture of detergents, chemicals and physical testing of detergents and will participate in practical applications. The attendees represent the public and private sector industries.

Amman officials review activities

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting held Saturday at the Amman governorate under the chairmanship of Governor Talaat Al Nawaiseh stressed the importance of expanding the concept of the governorate's Consultative Council by including representatives of voluntary committees. The meeting, attended by directors of the governorate departments, the director of Amman police and the deputy governors, called for setting up popular committees in the capital to act as a link between citizens and officials. Participants in the meeting also underlined the importance of cooperation among all government departments in the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for Nov. 8. They stressed the need for exchanging information between

the governorate's various departments and discussed projects being carried out in the governorate this year.

Irbid adds 516 cases to assistance list

IRBID (Petra) — The Social Development Department in Irbid has extended recurrent assistance to 516 new cases in Irbid governorate during the first half of 1993, according to Department Director Mahmoud Al Shboul. Mr. Shboul said the increased number of families receiving the aid bring the total to 3,035. Combined they receive JD94,586 monthly. The department, Mr. Shboul said, has during the same period paid emergency aid to 22 cases.

Irbid officers trained in Social Security Law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) Sunday will organise at the Irbid Municipality Building a seminar on the applications of the Social Security Law. The seminar, which will be attended by 150 liaison officers representing various industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors in Irbid, aims to spread awareness of the law among insured citizens and to acquaint the liaison officers with the best means and methods of implementing the law's provisions. The seminar is part of other activities organised by the SSC to increase the number of beneficiaries of the law.

JSCEP to hold 1-day seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) Monday will hold a seminar on ways of protecting the environment. The day-long seminar, which is being organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, will be conducted at the Vocational Training Centre in Hashemieh near Zarqa. On Tuesday JSCEP will organise a related exhibition, which will display various materials, and a documentary film featuring environmental issues will be shown.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Ebbelila Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- Exhibition entitled "Hashemite Paintings" by Jordanian artist Iyad Al Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan organised by the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History, at the British Council.
- Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists

at the Housing Bank Gallery.

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the holy city of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Seminar, in Arabic, on "The Literature of Resistance" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.30 p.m.
- Palestinian film entitled "Palestine — The Record of a People" at 8 p.m. at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "Treasure Island" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (1950, 96 minutes).

Jordan Times

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Clarity, decisiveness above all

THE GOVERNMENT continues its refusal to budge on the all-too-crucial issue of the Election Law. Contending that it is working within the limits of the Constitution and the law, the Majali Cabinet appears happy and content just to keep every politician, candidate and voter guessing as to what it intends to do regarding that law. Yesterday, the minister of interior, Salameh Hamdani, held a press conference to talk about elections and electioneering, only to refuse to spell out what the government's real intentions are on keeping, changing altogether or just amending the current legislation. The minister confined himself to listing dates, figures, and procedures which, granted, are useful to all of us. But when it came to the most important point of all, that of whether we will hold the next elections according to an old or new legislative formula, he sounded the by-now familiar phrase, that of George Bush: Read my lips.

So far the consensus of the main parties and the majority of ex-deputies have been against any amendment to the law, and understandably so. Those parties have also in fact every right to complain that the dialogue that has been conducted over the issue has not been satisfactory enough. This clearly shows that the government continues to be either indecisive about which course to take or it is decided on changing the law but wants to delay its decision until the last possible moment.

Dr. Majali and his colleagues may have every constitutional right to remain silent or vague, but by doing so they are likely to be accused of contributing little towards the atmosphere of confidence that this country needs in order to press ahead with the democratisation process.

We all know that this government's main purpose is to oversee the elections for the 12th Parliament. His Majesty the King had asked the prime minister to "ensure a smooth election process." Furthermore, the King has said he wanted to see a "public administration (in which) those with qualifications can excel, not one that is paralysed by acts of favouritism and impeded by bureaucracy and fear of shouldering responsibility." It goes without saying, therefore, that an indecisive and reluctant administration will not help the cause that the King is advocating. What we sincerely hope for and expect is for this government to act fast on an issue that is of vital importance to our democratic march. Clarity, in the end, should be our democracy's name of the game.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Saturday cast doubts on statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the wake of his tour in the Middle East, noting that the American secretary was reportedly satisfied as he had claimed that the trip was successful and paved the ground for the resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations. If any progress has been achieved, said the paper, it was at the diplomatic level, but no progress has been achieved on the ground. No real progress can be achieved in the peace negotiations unless it is based on Israel's response to U.N. resolutions and the requirements at a genuine and lasting peace, said the paper. It was noticed however, said the paper, that the secretary's attention was focused in this trip on the Syrian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks. But, it added, no real peace can be achieved on any track unless an equal measure of progress is achieved on the other tracks too. Of course the crux of the whole issue lies with the Palestine problem, but still no progress can be achieved at the expense of the other tracks, continued the daily. What the Arabs seek is a full implementation of U.N. resolutions and the restoration of Palestinian people's rights, and indeed if any progress is made it must mean progress towards pulling the Israeli forces out of the occupied Arab territories, demanded the paper. We have not heard anything of this kind yet, neither did we hear Mr. Christopher speak about the rights of the Palestinian people, added the daily. It said that in contrast with the Arab stand Israel is merely seeking compromise solutions that do not provide for its withdrawal from Arab territories.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday demanded that the government insist that Jordan be compensated in full for its continued losses as a result of the U.S. naval blockade on Aqaba. Tareq Masarweh said that acting independently of the United Nations, the United States has been laying a siege on Aqaba causing Jordan to sustain half a billion dollars in economic losses. The Americans have kept Aqaba under siege under the pretext of searching for goods going to Iraq, but they have been allowing shipping to move freely to Turkish ports which, in turn, passes the same goods to Iraq, said the writer. He said that Washington has been doing this to punish Jordan for its non-cooperative stand on the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and to reward Turkey for its support for and involvement in the Gulf war. The writer said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has mentioned this issue in his press conference, promising that his government would look into the question, but nothing else. Masarweh called on the government to take an adamant stand and strongly demand a halt to such practices on the part of the American naval forces in the Gulf of Aqaba. He said that Jordan should not accept any pressure from any one and Jordanians should not feel humiliated.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Why a mortgage secondary market?

We in Jordan are very lucky; we do not have to plan for our economy or think for our future. The World Bank is doing the planning and thinking for us. The World Bank's latest creative idea is the establishment of a secondary market for real estate mortgages as part of upgrading Jordan's financial market.

The secondary market aims at creating a market wherein debts covered by mortgages can be traded at prices above or below the nominal value of the debt, i.e., premium or at discount. It is just like the secondary market we already have for shares and bonds, where the owner can sell his shares or bonds whenever he likes, at the going price, which may be below or above the original cost, as the prevailing circumstances may dictate.

The idea sounds good and convincing. A secondary market for mortgages does exist in the United States, where the creditors do not have to wait for the maturity of the installments for 20 or 30 years. They can unload their investments by selling them in the secondary market at the then present value.

Equating Jordan with America is not bad, but the circumstances are completely different. The real estate activity in Jordan is limited in comparison with the gigantic economy of the United States. Expansion there is desirable. The secondary market of mortgages is an effective tool to generate liquidity. The real estate financiers can liquidate all or part of their mortgage portfolios and reinvest the cash in fresh mortgages, and so on. Most mortgages in America are organised in favour of new house owners from the middle class.

In Jordan, by contrast, the real estate activity is too inflated, perhaps due to lack of alternative investment opportunities. Further expansion in this particular activity is therefore undesirable and counterproductive. The private and public institutions involved in house financing are, by no means, short of cash. They are mainly big banks, corporations and funds, led by the Housing Bank, Housing Corporation, Social Security Corporation, and a

large number of housing cooperatives.

Jordan suffers no shortages of houses. If anything, a surplus is in the making despite the return of hundreds of thousands of citizens from the Gulf.

Specialised banks, corporations and other funds active in the real estate market and house building and financing need no more incentives. Both the public and private sectors are over-eager to build and finance more buildings. When the Housing Bank was criticised for financing non-housing investments, its management responded by asserting that not a single qualified applicant for house financing was ever turned down.

The introduction of a secondary market for mortgages will put an end to special rates in favour of limited-income groups. Any reduced interest rate will inevitably cause a huge capital loss in the secondary market, which no private or public lender would like to recognise.

We speculate that the World Bank may have some hidden agenda behind promoting a secondary market for mortgages in Jordan. The call for modernisation of the financial market, and securing a second line of defence for the real estate creditors to fall back to, may not be the only objective. The real objective of the World Bank could be the strengthening of the housing sector and the mobilisation of more resources in its favour. That was the policy of the World Bank during the past 40 years. It may persist during the coming 40 years.

But, according to one conspiracy theory, the final objective is to enhance the housing capacity of Jordan to accommodate all those Palestinians who might eventually be expelled from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and the Gulf states to form a substitute homeland here. That option is being rejected by words, but no-one can take for granted that it might not be implemented in stages like those we have passed through.



If the Serbs defy Clinton in Sarajevo

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Now? You want to bomb the Serbs now, just as they are about to win the war? That was the question I put to a senior government official the other day, to express my confusion over the Clinton administration's tardy decision to get serious about military intervention in Bosnia after months of agonising and reversals.

I had concluded weeks ago that the once feasible option of limited air strikes against the Serbs had been overtaken by events. Doing it now risked doing the right thing for the wrong reasons at the wrong time. But the Clintonites never cease to surprise. Here is an approximation of the conversation that followed:

Me: Why now? When the Serbs have defeated the Muslim-led Bosnian government and after the administration pushed the Muslims into formally accepting partition and defeat at Geneva?

Senior Government Official: We have to make sure that Sarajevo stands. Without Sarajevo, there can be not even a rump Bosnian state. And the Serbs have to get the message that they cannot move on to Kosovo or Macedonia. There may be only one way to accomplish these goals.

Q: But bombing the Serbs now to keep them out of Sarajevo will not change the strategic situation or alter the Serbian conquests that the partition plan legitimises. It is as if the crisis has shrunk to a size that the Clinton administration can now handle.

A: You are not wrong to put it that way.

This is the final paradox of the Bosnian tragedy. It is urgent enough, and small enough, for the Clinton administration to be ready to intervene.

Blocked by America's NATO

allies and his own generals from using force before. Bill Clinton has had to wait until the Bosnian crisis shrank to a manageable dimension to find ways to influence it to a size that fits the limited military resources that the U.S. administration could devote to it.

Behind the smoke hanging over this capital for months there is suddenly some fire. The military tasks that President Clinton and Defence Secretary Les Aspin have proposed to General Colin Powell and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are limited enough that General Powell will at last seriously consider them. The slippery slope that he and his commanders feared five months ago looks more like a muddy ditch that can be forded without great risk to American soldiers.

Partitioning Bosnia into Muslim, Serbian and Croatian mini-states buries the more ambitious United Nations Vance-Owen plan, which would have committed

20,000-plus American soldiers and other foreign forces to policing a 10-district multiethnic Bosnian state. That was the Pentagon's worst nightmare.

The partition agreement thus makes U.S. air strikes against the Serbs more likely, not less likely, if the bloody Serbian assault on Sarajevo continues anyway. The Pentagon seems less afraid of Mr. Clinton leading the United States into a Balkan quagmire by trying to use force to reverse Serbian territorial conquests.

But the partition accord imposes a strong moral imperative on the Clinton administration as well. It was under heavy but unacknowledged American pressure that the Bosnian government headed by President Alija Izetbegovic agreed in Geneva to a three-state partition that leaves the Muslim population occupying a rump state centred on Sarajevo.

Mr. Izetbegovic came to Geneva defending the multiethnic Bosnian state that declared its inde-

pendence last year. But he caved after being told by the United States that the alternative to accepting an immediate negotiated partition was the imminent overrunning and division of Bosnia by Croatian and Serbian forces. Air strikes would not signal "that the calvary is coming," Mr. Izetbegovic was told.

How effectively America can use limited force in this chaotic situation is very unclear, even for intelligence experts. "It's a razor-edge call," said one.

The Bosnian defeat and the partition agreement ratify the emergence of Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia as an important regional power in the Balkans. Mr. Clinton's earlier plan to combine air strikes and a lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia horrified European allies, who feared that these steps would be insufficient to prevent Serbian victory but damaging enough to leave Europe dealing with an angry and vengeful Serbia far into the future.

America's task now is to minimise the consequences of the defeat that it has encouraged the Bosnian Muslims to accept. Bombing the winners of a war is not an obvious strategy. But if the Serbs defy Mr. Clinton in Sarajevo, the president would have no honourable alternative to carrying out, at long last, his threat.

It would be folly at this point to use military action for other purposes, such as obscuring the devastating political failure that the Bosnian defeat represents for the international community, or to ease guilty consciences. There is no reason to suspect that such motives are at play in the decision to prepare air strikes now. Washington and its allies must ensure that it remains the case as they pursue this belated intervention — The Washington Post.

Bosnia causing dissent among U.S. diplomats

By Carol Giacomo

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The resignation of the second State Department official in a year over Bosnia underscores the increasing, and unusual, willingness of career diplomats to go public with their disagreements over U.S. foreign policy.

Last year, Yugoslavia Desk Officer George Kenney made front-page news in the Washington Post when he quit the department in protest over a policy he considered to be shameful, the Marshall Freeman Harris, the Bosnia Desk officer, won similar treatment in Thursday's New York Times.

A few months ago, a dozen State Department officials involved in mid-level policy-making wrote a letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which was leaked to the press, expressing their dissent over Bosnia policy.

Although many editors and public opinion polls say Americans are not particularly concerned about Bosnia and its embattled Muslims, debate among those concerned with foreign policy — including academics, press columnists and government officials — over U.S. and allied roles in Bosnia has been intense, sustained and often very agonising.

"I can no longer serve in a Department of State that accepts the forcible dismemberment of a European state and that will not act against genocide and the Serbian officials who perpetrate it," Mr. Harris wrote in his resignation letter.

The two-page letter to Mr. Christopher is a scathing attack on the Clinton administration, which Mr. Harris accused of mishandling opportunities to allow Bosnia to defend itself.

He also faults the administration's recent efforts to get NATO to conduct limited air strikes against Serb targets.

"I can no longer in good conscience allow myself to be associated with an administration that, through a very limited, belated use of force which will hasten Bosnia's death, is driving the Bosnian government to surrender its territory and its sovereignty to the victors in a war of aggression," Mr. Harris wrote.

Mr. Christopher, who has been in the Middle East this week to try to revive Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and said he had a copy of Mr. Harris's letter faxed to him, seemed to dismiss the resignation by noting that Mr. Harris was a "young officer."

"I think what's important here is to keep our eye on the president's policy initiative," he told reporters.

After arguing it was doing all it could do for Bosnia in the face of allied opposition to military action, the Clinton administration this week pressed for, and won, NATO agreement to prepare for limited air strikes to ensure humanitarian aid to embattled Muslims and to break the siege of Sarajevo.

At the same time, U.S. officials have urged Bosnia's Muslim-led government to accept the fact they lost the war and to agree to the country's partition at Geneva peace talks.

Unlike Mr. Kenney, Mr. Harris had a job lined up when he left the State Department. He began work on Thursday as foreign affairs adviser to Representative Frank McCloskey, an Indiana Democrat who has been a strong critic of U.S. policy on Bosnia.

While Mr. Harris seemed to land on his feet, Editor Charles Williams of Foreign Policy magazine said officials who resign in such fashion are taking a considerable risk.

Despite broad freedoms in America, there is a strong presumption that U.S. officials are team players and loyal.

"This is not a forgiving culture for people who resign from government... (they often) are denied the opportunity to ever come back to government and are hounded in private life," Mr. Maynes said.

Mr. Kenney was given office space at the Carnegie Institute for International Peace when he left the State Department but receives no pay from that institution.

He had to move into his parents' basement when he resigned from the government and has earned a living writing articles and making speeches about Bosnia.

Recently, speaking invitations declined and he says he is "hustling from month to month wondering whether I'll survive." Still, he seems at peace with his resignation and says: "I'm quite sure I had far greater impact on (U.S. Bosnia) policy on the outside than I ever could on the inside."

LETTERS

Regrettable challenge

To the Editor:

I wish to respond to the letter in the Jordan Times, August 5-6, 1993, written by Ret. Col. Nasser Mirza in which he refers to me, by name, and my letter of July 29-30, 1993.

I feel certain that Col. Mirza has never been inside the women's toilets at the King Hussein Bridge, at the Jordanian border post at Ramtha, nor at the Queen Alia International Airport. If, however, he has been in the men's toilets at these places and found them clean, functioning and supplied with paper, then I apologise and stand corrected. I will thereby qualify my criticism of those accountable for the maintenance of these public toilets. I fault them for doing only half their job.

The editor of the Jordan Times is responsible for and capable of defending the appropriateness of the letters he publishes. I am grateful that he chose to print mine and hope that in so doing, this sad situation can be addressed and corrected. I stand by my comments and my right to express them. Controversy, criticism and dissent are integral parts of freedom of speech. This freedom cannot survive if its exercise is limited to a select few or if the speaker is forced to confine his remarks to predetermined topics.

It is regrettable if some readers of the Jordan Times found my letter disagreeable. It is tragic if they or others challenge my privilege to write it and the Jordan Times' right to print it.

Ann Sawalha,
Amman.

Constructive criticism

To the Editor:

I was surprised to read Ret. Col. Nasser Mirza's letter in Thursday's Jordan Times, replying to a previous letter from Ann Sawalha concerning toilet facilities in the country.

It is obvious that Col. Mirza did not understand the point Mrs. Sawalha was trying to make. Evidently he does not know Mrs. Sawalha.

Only by improvement and self-criticism can Jordan grow and by making a comment on a certain subject, Mrs. Sawalha was not attacking Jordan but was trying to make a valid point.

As we all know, tourism is very important and the facilities provided to travellers reflect on the country. There ought to be a basic standard of cleanliness for health, hygiene and comfort.

We would not question Col. Mirza's loyalty and feelings for his country, but surely the subject under debate is very basic and it is not one to question a person's feelings and loyalty to their country.

There are many obstacles facing Jordan and we should not be blind to our shortcomings nor be too defensive when it comes to criticism.

P.M. Salti,
P.O. Box 162,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.



France's new immigration laws

By Sabine Guex

PARIS — For 20 years, a common goal of all French governments has been curbing immigration, but none has made it such a priority as the conservative government of Edouard Balladur. A radical change in French immigration policies was high on the joint electoral platform of the Rassemblement pour la République (RPR), the Gaullist party headed by Jacques Chirac, and the Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF), the right-of-centre family of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Following the Socialists' defeat in last March elections, the overwhelmingly right-wing majority in parliament and its governmental body have delivered on their promise.

On the basis of the conclusions of the Marceau Long commission — an independent think tank on nationality created in 1987 — three new sets of immigration laws have been approved. First, access to French citizenship has been restricted. Among its provisions, children of foreign parents who are born and raised in France must submit a formal request for citizenship at age 16. Second, with the aim of clamping down on illegal aliens, police are empowered to carry out random identity checks. Third, restrictions have been placed on foreigners wishing to enter France as either immigrants or political refugees.

François Dubet, a renowned French sociologist and researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, has published several books on young people born of immigrants and their lives in areas with large immigrant populations. In an exclusive interview, he reflects on the scope of the immigration policy change, its ideological basis and potential social repercussions.

"First of all, the French republic does not have a tradition of curbing immigration," Mr. Dubet explained. "There have been times when boundaries were opened and times when they were closed. They were opened at the end of the last century, when France was becoming industrialised and building its military power. They were closed in the 1920s and 1930s, which were marked by restrictive immigration measures. In the 1950s and 1960s they were opened because of economic prosperity and the need for a bigger workforce."

Mr. Dubet points out that the new laws serve different functions. "Restrictions on entering the country are aimed at fighting illegal immigration and stem from the economic crisis, high unemployment and political intolerance towards immigrants." Illegal immigration depends largely on an existing illegal labour market. He wonders why there are not more severe penalties for employing illegal aliens and finds it shocking to be tough on the hungry and miserable immigrant and much more lenient on his employer, who, in most cases, voted for the RPR which — with other right-of-centre parties — has formed the parliamentary majority since last March elections.

Mr. Dubet is convinced that suppressing illegal labour would be a far more efficient way of limiting illegal immigration. "It would make it very difficult for farmers who employ illegal workers during the summer seasons; yet, these same farmers voted for the present government." In fact, he says, the same people who employ illegal immigrants are the ones asking for curbs on immigration.

Immigrants will have to make a formal request for French citizenship. "I think everything will depend on how the provisions are applied," Mr. Dubet said. "If someone really wants French nationality and requests it properly — and this request is dealt with in a positive manner by the French authorities — I think the process can be constructive. If the person requesting French citizenship finds authorities uncooperative and unpleasant, the process could be negative. It depends on how the interaction takes place."

The process proposed by the Marceau Long Commission in 1987 was not intended to close boundaries but to open them in a more regulated manner. "In the current political climate, the opposite may occur," Mr. Dubet said. "The previous law that automatically conferred French citizenship resulted in many people — especially the young — being in an improbable situation. They did not ask for French citizenship and do not know whether or not they had it."

"What troubles me most in these new provisions is the random identity checks," Mr. Dubet said. "It is possible that many foreign-looking people — even those who have lived here for generations like the Algerians, Asians and North Africans — could be constantly intimidated by police questioning. The police sometimes overstep their powers

when questioning people and do not treat them with proper respect, which could lead to humiliation."

Mr. Dubet says that while some illegal immigrants will be identified, there is a risk of polarising those who are legally French or wish to become so. "This provision in the law has not been accompanied by measures aimed at increasing ethnic variety within the police force. Unlike the U.S., France does not have compulsory racial quotas. This law could make life unbearable for people who do not physically look French. I am convinced that the police will make mistakes when questioning people and that many who are becoming integrated into French society will feel more isolated. This provision was adopted to please Le Pen and the National Front electorate."

There is a risk of creating false hope by using slogans such as "zero immigration," as Interior Minister Charles Pasqua has done. "We will never be able to stop illegal immigration entirely and send hundreds of thousands of people back to countries that cannot accommodate them," Mr. Dubet said. "The provisions could have a positive effect on future illegal immigration because they may deter people who might have considered entering France illegally. Borders will still be crossable, and illegal aliens will still find illegal jobs. These measures will have a superficial result, but I doubt their effectiveness."

Rather than facilitating integration, the laws are making it more difficult. "We are saying, 'I will fight against illegal aliens to better integrate immigrants already living here,' but in suspecting everyone who does not look French of being illegal, we are making integration more difficult. We should not delude ourselves. North African teenagers, for instance, will no longer be able to go for a walk without having to show the police their identity papers. Some analysts say we aren't far from asking people to wear a yellow star."

"It is possible that many foreign-looking people — even those who have lived here for generations — could be constantly intimidated by police questioning."

Mr. Dubet says France is going too far. "In people's daily lives, potential police brutality during random checks, suspicion a priori, the uncooperative attitude of state employees — these elements lead to the fact that we are currently institutionalising discrimination. He believes France should not fall into a kind of anti-racist phobia, but it makes him uncomfortable that the government didn't consider some of the consequences of these laws."

"For the past 20 years, there has been no real political shift on the issue," Mr. Dubet said. "A country caught in fast-growing unemployment cannot continue to welcome immigrants without running into difficulties. In that respect — and in the light of what sociologist Max Weber called the 'ethics of responsibility', that there should be continual examination of the practical effects of any decision — I believe that immigration should be controlled, especially given the imbalance between the Southern and Northern hemispheres. With 3.5 million people unemployed, it would be absurd to say that France should remain an open country."

Mr. Dubet says these laws are, to a large extent, political decisions aimed at answering a public upset by continued, unchecked immigration and sensitive to National Front themes. "Charles Pasqua has announced the aim of coming closer to those themes while avoiding embracing the National Front electorate. He is not a fascist. Two events support him: opinion polls show that Pasqua's measures are popular and all the amendments proposed by rank-and-file conservative deputies — who embody public opinion — were repressive. These are important measures."

Mr. Dubet says they symbolically comfort a public overwhelmingly hostile to immigration, while physically endangering the lives of many foreigners or French people of foreign descent. He believes the effects could be disastrous — perhaps resulting in "ghettoising" part of the population.

Deputy Alain Marsaud, a leading proponent of the random checks provision, says it boils

down to a "choice between two societies" — a "multi-ethnic France" and a "protected France." This is a false debate, Mr. Dubet says, because France is already a multi-ethnic society. "What is happening today is that France is completely open economically — and this fuels strong feelings of fear among the French. To rectify the situation, images of a culturally and ethnically homogenised France are being bandied." He says this is not new — Mr. Reagan, Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher combined economic liberalism and cultural conservatism.

If a young man who was born in France of foreign parents serves over six months in jail, he will now be denied access to French citizenship. This poses a problem, says Mr. Dubet, who wonders if over-repression of delinquency among children of immigrants is acceptable from a moral and legal standpoint. "If you are not yet a French citizen and commit a crime, you will be sentenced twice — to jail and to losing the opportunity of citizenship — a 'double sentence.' Everything depends on the mindset of both immigrants and authorities." He fears this measure will be implemented in the most restrictive, negative manner, as in the case of random identity checks.

Mr. Dubet says the new laws may be used as another obstacle to French citizenship. "The other day I was in a Paris City Hall. Employees were sharply unpleasant towards people of foreign origin. One employee told me, 'We were given the order to be unpleasant.'"

High-ranking officials regularly connect immigration with illegal immigration, crime and unemployment. Illegal aliens have illegal jobs and are, thus, offenders. Immigrants are usually poor, are constantly watched by the police and have lost their cultural identity. "Even if immigrants made up 10 per cent of the total population and 30 per cent of the delinquent population," Mr. Dubet said, "it means that 95 per cent of the French population of foreign descent are not criminals. This is all about syllogisms and fantasies. These fantasies belong to a very old — and not only French — tradition that stigmatises others and makes them feel guilty. Of the two — Simone Veil, the Social Affairs Minister, who embodies centrist politics and social liberalism within the government, and Charles Pasqua, who upholds repressive measures — Pasqua will emerge victorious."

Mr. Dubet says young North Africans living in the suburbs are rather crushed by the new laws. "There have not been many reactions so far. I believe some young people feel that the changes regarding citizenship are not necessarily a bad thing, because it will mean they are obliged to choose their nationality. In the case of Algerians, it is a big thing to choose French citizenship because it means choosing the nationality of the winner of the French-Algerian conflict — the enemy. But one cannot live in the past."

Every year people anticipate riots in the hot summer months in areas with large immigrant populations. Whether the new legislation will increase tensions between young foreigners and the authorities is unpredictable. "For a riot to start there has to be a combination of ingredients, such as an event that triggers it and a certain climate," Mr. Dubet said. "I think the situation in the suburbs is deteriorating fast. We are creating a dual society. Incidents will tend to multiply dramatically. As to whether we should prepare for a riot this summer, nobody knows."

Mr. Dubet believes there is a risk of "ghettoisation" of part of the immigrant population — especially if France finds itself some day having to deal with a problem like the black American problem. "If we do not manage to 'integrate' our immigrants or implement a policy of generosity and support that demonstrates the will to integrate them today for future generations, we will be in a situation comparable to that of the U.S. — one of two separate societies."

The disproportionate impact of unemployment on the immigrant population, the break-up of the traditional family and increasing social and ethnic tensions do not bode well for the future. "But," Mr. Dubet said, "we have to admit that immigration has become the scapegoat for French political problems. In essence, immigrants are the ones on whose back a policy is being decided because something has to be done."

What options are left? "I believe measures aimed at integrating immigrants so they are accepted as they are, measures for compensation and maybe even quota policies should be devised," Mr. Dubet said. "Illegal immigration must be firmly fought, but repression of illegal aliens has become a Trojan horse for excluding immigrants" — World News Link.

Old cars tell Laos' history

By Sheri Prasso

Agence France Presse

VIENTIANE — If the old cars still driving the streets of Vientiane could speak, what a story they would tell.

Like colourful history books on wheels, the old cars — first French, then Japanese, American, Russian and now again Japanese — tell Laos' story of colonial domination, war-time occupation and the cold war battles that have been played out here over the last five decades.

To see them in nearly mint condition, never having left the radius of the tiny capital of 260,000, nor ever having braved a winter, is to hear their stories of the past.

The grey Citroens and 2CV, the grandfathers of them all, would remember in hoarse French their 1940s heydays, when France's civil servants drove them proudly along the grand boulevards.

The American cars — from rock-n-roll era Chevys to '70s Yank tanks and an astounding number of military jeeps — would recall in a chattering of voices the years when the U.S. embassy here, directing the failed effort to stem the communist tide in Vietnam, was among the largest in the world.

The decades-old Mercedes, their rounded bodies pinched into tailfins, would sound like newly released political prisoners venturing out timidly after years — as symbols of ostentation — during the last 15 years of austere communist rule.

The box-like black Volgas and Ladas that replaced them would complain in thick Russian accents about how hard it is to get spare parts these days.

And the new kids on the block, the spanking new Toyota pickups, loudly would boast about which one is fastest and which has the biggest cylinders.

Even the few new Mercedes 401s and the one black and gold Porsche imported this year have something to say: prosperity and liberalisation are returning to Laos after years of isolation.

"If people can afford a new car, they'd love to buy a new one," said a Thai businessman.

NHF choreo presentation to be featured at international festival

Since its establishment in 1987, Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre-in-Education Programme has produced a variety of drama works addressing both local and foreign young audiences. This year, the programme is planning to step up its national and international share of drama production with a choreo presentation featuring traditional, national as well as universal themes.

Entitled "Crescent Night," this Arabic/English presentation is to be performed at the Royal Cultural Centre during August 24-28 before being featured at the next International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap Farm for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia during September 4-6.

"The concept of this choreo presentation is to portray certain aspects of ancient and modern Jordan such as culture, arts, heritage, democracy and development throughout the various activities of our production," said Lina Tell, director of the show.

Themes tackled by the choreo presentation include highlighting Jordanian nature with its distinct seasons and colourful landscape, Jordanians' attachment to their land, families and communities, Jordan's democracy and liberalism, as well as the Kingdom's contributions to the alleviation of the adverse effects of war and famine on children of the world. In this context, children are not portrayed as submitting to big conflicts, but rather as bravely standing up to the challenges spawned by those conflicts.

"Our show will conclude with a song of hope, peace, love and freedom in both Arabic and English, dedicated to the children of the festival," said Mrs. Tell who also heads the NHF Theatre-in-Education Programme.

The show opens with the harvest season in a rural Jordanian setting. Men and women, dressed in traditional clothing, harvest grain crops while singing pastoral lyrics in harmony with nature. A bird song of music, coupled with faint singing and horse neighing enriches the spirit of the harvest ritual.

The festive activities of the harvest season continue on stage for a while before both setting and mood fade into yet a more festive occasion: the Eid. Calls glorifying God Almighty, emanating from mosque minarets, marking the beginning of the

least according to Islamic lunar year, inject a religious element into the scene. A blend of tradition and naturalism are clearly noticeable in the movements of happy young people clothed in colourful dresses and immersed in wave-after-wave of fun. Traditional children's sweets, games, toys, songs and Eid festivities are featured in the show. The seemingly endless cycle of delight continues unabated for a while, to be broken by the noise of a manual coffee grinder, followed by dimming light. In the heart of darkness and deafening noise, children began to leave the stage; only one young man "Amer" (the Hakawati) stays behind spotlighted to narrate the story of children of the world to audiences.

"Once upon a time, there was a drop of dew... born of light... It was very dark and cold. But the drop of dew was anxiously waiting for the light. It was like a sky in the night, decorated and embroidered with stars."

Young performers, at that point, come on stage again to perform a "Sarkha" dance, followed by up-and-down motions signifying persistence, optimism and pride. An air of determination and resolve is dominant, reinforced by a nostalgia-charged song for the noble cause of peace.

The International Children's Festival is a three-day celebration of the arts for people of all ages.

It offers simultaneous performances on several stages plus hands-on workshops in the creative arts. Based on the concept of sharing cultural traditions through the international language of the arts, the festival is expected to entertain, educate and enrich about 35,000 participants this summer.

Participating teams come from Jordan, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The presentation is being prepared under the supervision of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre-in-Education Programme. Contributors to this work include Rania Qamhawi (choreographer), Kifah Fakhouri (music supervisor), Sakher Hatat (music conductor), Bushra Hajo Tariq (costumes and accessories), Lina Tell (director) and Najeh Abu-Zein (assistant director). Scripts were jointly written by Lina Tell, Rania Qamhawi and Najeh Abu-Zein.

The Theatre-in-Education Programme was launched in 1987 to help develop the educational process in Jordan through the creative medium of drama and to promote dramatic arts throughout the country. The programme combines classroom and stage techniques with the natural play

instinct of the young to promote self-awareness, confidence, learning ability and creative expression.

The programme seeks to accomplish its objectives through holding drama in education training courses for elementary schoolteachers and community college students in the utilisation of drama and theatre techniques as modern educational tools. About 1000 teachers from private and public schools and community colleges have benefited from the programme training courses on the basic concepts of education-through-drama.

The programme has also produced plays dealing with special school curricula topics. The programme's first activity was the production of an Arabised version of the "Wizard of Oz" as the "The Green Path". Two other major drama works have been produced by the programme: "Time Impressions" and the choreo presentation: "A Cry for Life".

The programme has participated in major international festivals such as the Bundesbegegnung Schulen Musizieren in May 1989, in Germany, with a folklore production, in puppet theatre festivals in Tunis, in February 1992, and in Italy in August 1992 with a puppet production entitled "Tales from Grandma's Chest."



Theatre-in-Education participants who will stage 'Crescent Night' at an international festival (file photo)

Will bloodshed in Lebanon stir revenge?

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's military gamble in Lebanon has been hailed as a success at home, shoring up his image and strengthening his hand to make concessions in Mideast peace talks.

But the legacy of hatred created by "operation accountability" could rebound on Israel if returning Lebanese Shiites seek revenge for the 147 people killed, the 496 wounded and the countless homes lost.

Despite the bloodshed and suffering, new horizons of dialogue were seen for Israel with Syria and Lebanon and there appeared to be new attention, if not momentum, that could help the peace talks.

"Rabin has always been prepared to give up the Golan for peace. He only needed a way to sell the deal to the population of Israel."

For Mr. Rabin, 71, ending the shelling without a long stay in Lebanon strengthened his leadership image. He had been needed by right-wing allegations that he dithered on security issues and could not stand up to pressure during crises.

"It was an achievement," Ephraim Sneh, an influential parliament member close to Mr. Rabin, said in an interview.

"There is today not the slightest doubt that this government is very decisive and determined when it comes to security and defence."

Some believe Mr. Rabin's insecurity was a factor in his decision to unleash a major attack after seven Israeli soldiers were killed last month.

"One of the major reasons for the operation was domestic," said Prof. Moshe Maoz, head of Hebrew University's Truman Institute. "Rabin wanted to show he's a tough guy and could inflict

heavy losses."

Having shown off Israel's power, Mr. Rabin might now be more willing to make concessions to the Syrians who seek the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Dr. Maoz said.

Commentator Philip Gilton said Israel's operation was aimed at pinning responsibility for future actions of the Iran-backed Hizbullah guerrillas on someone — Syria, Lebanon, Iran.

"According to the ceasefire, Syria accepted responsibility for Hizbullah. Admittedly, although it was not spelled out in the agreement, there will be a price for Israel to pay — the Golan Heights," he wrote in the weekly newsletter The Hornet.

"But Rabin has always been prepared to give up the Golan for peace. He only needed a way to sell the deal to the population of Israel."

Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies said Israel might be more flexible about withdrawing from its self-declared security zone in South Lebanon if Hizbullah guerrillas were kept in check.

"If as a result of the operation, the credibility of the Lebanese government and the Syrians is enhanced and they can prove

they can control problems on their side, it may lead to some progress on the security zone," he said.

Israel's tactics, however, appeared to be overkill to some critics and counterproductive to others. Instead of singling out Hizbullah bases in Lebanon, Israel used its cannons and warplanes to drive hundreds of thousands of refugees out of towns and villages in South Lebanon.

"Causing the exodus of so many Lebanese is immoral and stupid. It shows insensitivity and gives Israel a bad name," said Mr. Maoz.

Worse, it may produce new guerrillas for Hizbullah's ranks from among the victims who lost relatives and homes. Such was the result of Israel's 1982-5 occupation.

Israel succeeded in uprooting the PLO from Lebanon and removing its potential of attacking the northern border. But its tough actions angered South Lebanon's predominantly Shiite Muslim population — a potential ally which had opposed the Palestinian guerrillas' control of the area.

Hizbullah was one of the results.

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3. Assist in identifying/recruiting the core staff of the project as well as National Consultants/Resource Persons.
4. Prepare and organise the project's annual strategic planning workshops.
5. Prepare and organise the project's training programme on entrepreneurship including the study tour.
6. Coordinate the various activity components of the project and ensure complementarity of efforts between and among collaborating agencies.
7. Negotiate terms of agreement with various universities and qualified institutions for the implementation of the project's baseline research.
8. Oversee the organisation/implementation of various training and information/business advisory activity components of the project.
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11. Contribute to the identification/formulation of strategic approaches that will ensure sustainability of project's goals.
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World News

Serbs insist mountain supply trail be denied to Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb insistence that a Muslim supply route be cut is delaying a Serb army withdrawal from mountains overlooking Sarajevo, a senior United Nations official said Saturday.

A Serb pullout and handover of newly-captured positions to U.N. military observers is viewed as essential to progress at the Bosnia peace talks, due to resume in Geneva Monday.

Commanders of the opposing Serb and Muslim-led armies suspended talks with U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo Friday with differences unresolved over the proposed ceding of Serb positions on Igman and Bjelasnica Mountains.

"The problem was route of supply for the Bosnian army. That was basically the problem, not the high ground, not Bjelasnica, not the areas of Igman," said the U.N. Protection Force's civil affairs coordinator, Viktor Andreyev.

He said Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic, whose forces captured the heights earlier this week, had been "emotional" at the talks.

Gen. Mladic said he could not let Muslim-led forces have the mountain supply trail — a route he called "Allah's road."

But Mr. Andreyev denied the meeting had been a complete failure because Gen. Mladic, his Muslim counterpart General Rasim Delic and U.N. commander General Francis Brinkmann would meet again at Sarajevo Airport at noon Sunday.

"They did not break down at all...the atmosphere of the meeting was rather emotional but we are hopeful. We will have to wait until tomorrow," he told reporters.

Four U.N. military observers went up to Bjelasnica earlier this week and a second team was leaving for Igman Saturday.

U.N. military spokesman Commander Barry Frewer said Friday's talks had resulted in "virtually an impasse...on how it (withdrawal and U.N. monitoring) should be implemented."

He said Serb artillery opened fire on Igman late Friday when Muslim units withdrew to Hrasnica, a Sarajevo suburb at the base of the mountain.

"What we are seeing is the Bosnian Serb army consolidating up there. There are no movements at this time to withdraw," the U.N. spokesman added.

The Muslim-led government which holds Sarajevo insists that Serb forces quit the mountain positions.

The United States Friday revived the threat of NATO air strikes to prevent any further tightening of the siege ring around the battered capital and its 380,000 captive citizens.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned the Serbs they must expect NATO air attacks on their positions unless they desisted from "strangling" Sarajevo.

But the U.N. in Bosnia again voiced its concern about a jittery Serb retaliation, with Mr. Andreyev saying: "We're not sure that air strikes could be of help now."

In addition to pulling back from captured heights, Bosnian Serb leaders have offered to open two new routes to Sarajevo for U.N. military and relief convoys and commercial traffic.

Leaders of the three warring

communities were due to resume talks in Geneva Monday on setting up a proposed "union" of three ethnic republics.

But the most difficult part of the negotiation is expected to be the drawing up of the new republics' borders.

In a U.N. report to be published Sunday, Bosnia mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg say Sarajevo itself presents the toughest problem and warn a temporary solution for the city lasting a year or more might be needed.

"This was the most contentious issue during discussions on the future map, with positions deeply entrenched. The passions aroused are intense," it says of Sarajevo.

"Time may be needed for the wounds of the war to heal. Time to restore the damage done to communications and buildings in the Serb, Muslim and Croat areas. Time during which the three republics will learn to live and cooperate together and...re-discover mutual respect and tolerance," it cautions.

Meanwhile, sporadic fighting continued on several battlefronts in central Bosnia, pitting Muslims against Croats, Muslims against Serbs, Serbs against Croats.

One girl was killed by a sniper's bullet in Mostar and another child was wounded by a sniper in Novi Travnik.

Top U.S. and NATO officials sent a strong signal to Bosnia's Serbs to halt their siege of Sarajevo or face swift military action. "We're ready to take the action that needs to be taken," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

An aide said Mr. Christopher would be "working the phones"

Saturday upon his return to Washington in a continuing campaign to shore up international support for military action.

Mr. Christopher flew to Italy's Aviano Air Force Base Friday for a briefing from NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, U.S. General John Shalikashvili, the alliance's top military commander, and U.S. Admiral Jeremy Borda, the commander of NATO air operations in Bosnia.

"The military operation is ready," said Mr. Christopher. "I would say to the Serbs they would be very unwise to depend upon any indication."

Meanwhile, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell Friday warned against intervening in the Bosnian conflict "just out of a sense of frustration."

"The use of military force should always be related to a political objective," Gen. Powell said in an interview with British ITN television.

American troops "are willing and able and fully prepared to execute any mission given to them," he said, adding that he would advocate the use of military force "in a decisive kind of way — overwhelming is not the correct word."

U.S. Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders Friday urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to move immediately to use all means necessary, including force, to "ensure genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina is ended forever."

The leaders, members of the American Task Force on Bosnia and representing about a dozen organizations, called a news conference to press their case for a more muscular U.S. response to Serb aggression.



Bosnian Serb soldiers, heavily loaded with ammunition belts, patrol a side of the recently captured Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Yeltsin calls for 'urgent measures' to settle Tajikistan border conflict

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin called Saturday for "urgent measures" to settle a border conflict between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, at the opening of a summit of Central Asian states summoned to discuss the crisis.

His call came as Tajik forces backed by tanks and warplanes kept up an offensive against separatist rebels in the eastern autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Moscow is seeking to persuade Tajikistan to negotiate with Islamic fundamentalists who have fled south to Afghanistan and with separatists in Gorno-Badakhshan, against whom Dushanbe opened a second front last week.

Mr. Yeltsin urged the summit to bring diplomatic, military and political pressure to bear to help end cross-border raids by Tajik rebels on government and Russian troops guarding the frontier.

The Interfax News Agency said Mr. Yeltsin told the summit, attended by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, that "our common concern (is the protection of) the border of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)."

Turkmenistan, participating in the closed-door summit as an observer, is opposed to military intervention in the conflict.

The Russian leader proposed calling a conference with Afghanistan, used as a base by anti-Dushanbe Islamic fighters, under

U.N. auspices which would lead to the signing of a "multiparty peace and cooperation accord in Central Asia."

"Russia is ready to take concrete steps to peacefully resolve the problems in this hot spot," added Mr. Yeltsin, quoted by Interfax.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala is expected in Dushanbe on a two-day visit starting Tuesday.

However, Mr. Yeltsin warned that "the complex situation necessitates the sending of reinforcements." He called for close cooperation by summit states in regional security matters, adding that Moscow was counting on a "major contribution" from states in the region.

"Military measures are not our chosen option, but in the current circumstances it is difficult to avoid them," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The Russian leader reiterated his call on Dushanbe to negotiate with its rebels, expressing his support for "reconciliation and not repression."

He called on the Tajik authorities to start talking "without exception" to all opposition parties and to "take into account the balance of clans and ethnic groups" in Tajikistan.

Before breaking, the summit leaders signed declarations on the inviolability of borders and measures to normalize the situation in the region.

However, Tajik opposition leader Mohammad Sharif Himat-

zade refused Saturday to hold direct talks with Dushanbe on the Afghan border crisis, but said he was willing to negotiate with Russian leaders.

"We are ready to sit with the Russians as the main party in the crisis," he said in Kabul. "But we are not willing to sit with their puppets."

He dismissed the summit as a ruse by Russia to force the Central Asian republics to send troops to the Afghan-Tajik frontier.

For their part Tajik opposition parties Lali-Badakhshan, Godno-Badakhshan separatists, the Islamic Renaissance Party, the nationalist Rastokhez Movement and the Tajik Democratic Party have called on the government for dialogue, according to a joint statement published Saturday by Interfax.

Most opposition leaders fled Tajikistan when Communists returned to power in December 1992, and the Islamic Renewal Party has led the fundamentalist resistance backed by Afghan Mujahideen.

Mr. Yeltsin also called on Dushanbe not to aggravate the situation in Gorno-Badakhshan, where Interfax reported the government offensive was continuing Saturday with tanks and Uzbek reinforcements.

It said more than seven people were killed and eight wounded in the region, bringing to over 60 the number killed since the Tajik assault began Friday.

Alligator on prowl in Tokyo park

TOKYO (R) — A small alligator is on the loose in a Tokyo park but is unlikely to pose any danger to humans, police said Saturday. They said they were trying to capture the reptile but gave no further details. News reports said the 90-cm-long (36 inch) alligator had been sighted several times wandering along the bank of a pond inside Shikujii Park, western Tokyo.

Cabinet abolishes health tax for dead

ROME (AP) — Italy once again offers some respite from taxes in Italy. The cabinet has abolished a regulation that said the dead were still responsible for the 85,000 lira (\$50) annual health care tax in the year of their death. Health Minister Maria Pia Garavaglia, who issued the order creating the regulation on July 30, conceded there was no way to enforce it. She said she had hoped family members and heirs would pay the tax, which sought to bring in 30 billion lira (\$19 million) a year from the deceased.

Drunk-driver banned then jailed in southern France

CANNES, France (R) — A drunk French motorist who drove straight into a wall hours after a court withdrew his license for drunk-driving was jailed for four months. The accident took place at Louis Baner, 44, was on his way home from a night out when he had banned him from driving for one year. A test showed a high blood-alcohol level and he was back in court, in the southern French town of Grasse, the next day.

Store guide for would-be shoplifters deters thieves

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedes have found a novel way of discouraging shoplifters — they signpost the potential thief's favourite pickings, a university research team said. Seven shops placed signs saying "these goods attract shoplifters" on self-service racks of goods ranging from leather jackets to chocolates, but the thieves stayed away. The shops in Stockholm, Uppsala and Västerås reported sharp drops in pilfering. Uppsala University Psychologist Ned Carter told Swedish Radio. "I believe it is because shop staff and customers pay more attention to displays with those signs, deterring potential shoplifters," said Mr. Carter. David Ottosson, a shopkeeper in Uppsala, told the Swedish News Agency (TT) that the signs had cut shoplifting, but he doubted whether they would stop professional thieves. Shoplifting costs several hundred million crowns (tens of millions of dollars) every year in Swedish stores.

Norwegian gays marry after change in law

OSLO (R) — Five Norwegian gay couples married after Norway became the second country in the world to bring in a law permitting the official registration of homosexual partnerships. "More, more," shouted a crowd of around one thousand people when the five couples who married left the Oslo registrar's office. NTB news agency said 10 Christians who staged a protest against the ceremony were hardly noticed. Norway refuses to call the ceremony a marriage, but the only difference between partnership and marriage is that gay couples are not allowed to adopt children. "The judicial and economic regulations are otherwise identical with matrimony. Only Denmark has a similar law," said Vidar Kildahl, spokesman at the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs. Grete Berger, minister of children and family affairs, later met the newly-wed couples, both male and female, at a reception in central Oslo. The ritual itself, which takes place at the Public Registrar's Office, is almost identical with that of marriage. The law came into force on Aug. 1 and one couple, who wanted to avoid publicity, married earlier this week.

Pope wants predecessor beatified soon

CASTELGANDOLFO, Italy (R) — Pope John Paul said he would like to see the late Pope Paul VI move quickly on the road to sainthood. "Our hope is that the Lord will let us see his servant raised to the honours of the altars as soon as possible," the Pope said at a mass commemorating the 15th anniversary of Paul VI's death at the papal summer retreat south of Rome. The "honours of the altars" is a reference to beatification, the penultimate step leading to sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. The beatification process of Paul VI began last May.

S. African townships are calm after army deployment

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A tense calm prevailed Saturday over Johannesburg's troubled eastern townships, one day after battle-hardened troops backed by armour and artillery were deployed to reinforce police in the area.

Police said they found seven bodies in the Katlehong and Tokoza townships and one in Daveyton, and reported several houses and shacks torched in East Rand townships.

The latest killings brought the death toll to 170 in eight days of virtual warfare pitting followers of the African National Congress (ANC) against those of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), and both against the police.

Despite the relative overnight calm, tensions remained high, aggravated by the presence among the troops in Tokoza of members of the now-defunct 32 Battalion — Angolan-born, Portuguese-speaking veterans of the Namibia campaign with a reputation for a brutality.

The unit was disbanded on the insistence of the ANC in March, when troops were accused of murdering and raping residents during operations in Tokoza's Phoxa Park squatter camp, where they were deployed after the end of the 16-year Namibia War in 1989.

Katlehong was also tense after a second night without electricity, due to a power failure, according to officials.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus, who warned Friday that the presence of former 32 Battalion members in Tokoza would "lead to further problems," said Saturday that the deployment of armoured personnel carriers mounted with heavy cannon was "not acceptance."

"That is not the answer" to the violence, he said.

Major General Vos Benede, an army spokesman, told The Citizen newspaper Saturday, however, that the army did not plan to use heavy artillery.

The vehicles, he said, would help "to provide greater protection to soldiers and to circumvent obstacles."

While radio reports said some ANC and IFP officials had "cautiously welcomed" the troop deployment, the Citizen quoted sources in Pretoria as saying the government had no plans to relinquish its control over the security forces until after the elections scheduled for April 27.

The government has been under strong pressure from the ANC to immediately put all its forces under multiparty control and set up a joint peacekeeping force comprising members of all the armed groups at play in South Africa.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Castro steals the show in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia (R) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro, on his first visit to the country where his comrade Che Guevara was shot dead, was mobbed by admirers in La Paz, where he arrived for the inauguration of Bolivia's new president. The veteran Communist leader basked in adulation as well-wishers crowded outside his hotel Thursday night, shouting slogans like, "Fidel, Bolivia is with you." From a window in his five-star hotel, Mr. Castro raised a cup of coca-leaf tea, a traditional remedy for the effects of the city's 3,600 metre (12,000 feet) altitude, to the crowd. Thanking them for the welcome, he shouted back, "Cuba is not alone." Castro was invited with four other Latin American heads of state by President Jaime Paz Zamora who steps down Friday. Paz Zamora, a former leftist revolutionary turned Social Democrat, won the presidency four years ago with the backing of his old enemy, former military dictator General Hugo Banzer.

U.S. Senate approves Freeh as FBI chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has confirmed Louis Freeh, a 43-year-old federal judge, as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mr. Freeh succeeds William Sessions, whom President Bill Clinton fired after Mr. Sessions had long been dogged by ethical questions. A former FBI agent and federal prosecutor with a reputation as a tough crime fighter, Mr. Freeh had an easy passage during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, pledging to keep the bureau free of political interference. He was confirmed by the Senate without debate.

Death toll in Japan floods reaches 36

TOKYO (R) — The death toll from torrential rain sweeping southern Japan rose to 36 late Saturday, with 29 more people still missing, a police spokesman said. The rain, which began Thursday, has triggered massive floods and landslides in Kagoshima prefecture on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu. Many people were homeless and without power supplies, and road and rail traffic was paralysed in much of the area, news reports said. Prime Minister-Elect Morihiro Hosokawa, a native of Kyushu, planned to send a fact-finding team to assess the scale of the damage in Kagoshima after forming his new cabinet Monday, Kyodo News Agency said.

China town back to normal after blast

PEKING (R) — China said life in Shenzhen had returned to normal after a chain of blasts killed at least eight people and caused extensive damage in the country's southern economic showcase. A spokesman at the Shenzhen municipal government said Saturday that six people had been confirmed dead following Thursday's blasts at a warehouse storing hazardous materials. "We still do not have complete information on how many people might be missing," the spokesman said by telephone, adding that more than 160 people had been injured in the explosion. The official Xinhua News Agency said Shenzhen, China's most successful "special economic zone" just across the border from the British colony of Hong Kong, had fully recovered after the chain of blasts at the Aunao dangerous goods shipping and storage facility several kilometres north of the city centre. "Traffic has recovered, the social order is normal and the stock exchange is again as busy as every day," the agency said in a report issued late Friday.

Bombers kill Indian legislator

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — A state legislator who recently sought bodyguard protection from the government was killed Saturday by bombers, United News of India said. P. Shiva Reddy and another person died instantly when three bombs exploded near them at noon as they left a wedding in a posh neighbourhood of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh state. Two other friends — former State Home Minister K. Venkata Rao and former State Deputy Speaker P. Suryanarayana Raju — were injured, United News of India (UNI) said. The report did not identify the other man who died. On Friday, D. Gripada Rao, the speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly in southern India, ordered his government to protect Mr. Reddy after he said he feared being killed. But the UNI report did not say whether Mr. Reddy was being guarded by police Saturday.

Spain seaside bomb blast injures 2

MADRID (AFP) — A bomb exploded in a hotel in a Mediterranean seaside resort here Saturday, slightly injuring a paramilitary policeman and an Italian tourist, police said. The bomb, containing up to 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) of plastic explosives, went off in a hotel lift at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) in the southern town of Manga Del Mar Menor, the police said. A anonymous caller warned the hotel's switchboard, and the 800-odd clients were evacuated. The civil guardsman and an Italian woman were among the last people leaving the building when the bomb went off.

Tropical storm hits Trinidad

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — Tropical storm Bret lashed Trinidad and Tobago with heavy rains and strong winds early Saturday, knocking out power throughout the twin-island Caribbean nation, local television reported.

The southern end of the resort island of Tobago, 22 miles from Trinidad, suffered storm damage and several houses in low-lying central Trinidad were also damaged, the reports said.

Eight soldiers were injured, two seriously, in an accident in Tobago and have been hospitalised, an official said, but it was unclear if their injuries were directly related to the storm. No details were available.

Troops have been deployed in the main commercial areas in Port of Spain to prevent any looting in the storm's wake. The neighbouring island nation of Grenada was also reported to be hit by the storm.

Trinidad officials said earlier that Bret was slowing down and drifting slightly north. The storm had measured winds of 50 miles an hour (80 kph), with gusts to 60 (96 kph), according to ACCU-weather forecasting service. It was moving west at 21 mph (33 kph). Boats and small vessels were told to remain in port, and flights in and out of Trinidad have been suspended.

New Japanese premier finalises cabinet line-up

TOKYO (Agencies) — New Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, promising a cabinet the people want, sat down with his new partners in the ruling coalition Saturday to finalise the government team.

Mr. Hosokawa, whose election late Friday ended 38 years of unbroken rule by the scandal-ridden Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), opened talks with his coalition partners to draw up a list expected to include all the alliance chiefs.

Excluding Mr. Hosokawa, they are the heads of seven parties from LDP splinter groups to the Socialists and including a union organisation.

"This is the start of coalition rule and I think (each alliance partner) should be represented," Mr. Hosokawa told reporters Saturday. "We're not going to be like the LDP which just stole out posts (like rewards for loyalty)... the suitability and ability of the candidates will be considered carefully."

"My aim now is to create a cabinet that lives up to the expectations of the people. It's not final yet... but the line-up will include capable lawmakers (from my coalition), women and private citizens."

Mr. Hosokawa said an early meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton was at the top of his international agenda.

"It could be in September if

\$5.8b flood aid bill goes to Clinton

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Senate Friday approved a \$5.8 billion bill to help the flooded Midwest and sent the bill to President Bill Clinton for signature.

It had earlier been approved by the lower house.

The cost of the bill doubled during its progress through Congress as the Senate added to it and Mr. Clinton asked for extra funds to meet the rising costs of the floods.

Much of the money in the bill is exempt from budget caps because it is designated as an emergency measure, leading to complaints by conservative budget-cutters and a promise to look into ways of handling emergency bills in the future.

The bill includes disaster aid

for farmers, grants and loans for housing, businesses, road and rail repairs and flood control.

Meanwhile, two historic Mississippi River towns shored up their sandbag barriers Friday as the stretch of rotting fish and debris left by receding waters in other areas reminded midwesterners of the massive clean-up ahead.

In the historic French colonial settlement of Ste. Genevieve, volunteers and residents had another stress-filled day when the river reached a new crest of 49.5 (15.08 metres) early Friday. Four major levees which had developed in a levee near the downtown area were plugged Thursday.

Levees also remained intact across the river in Prairie Du Rocher, an Illinois town founded

in 1722.

Flooding in the Mississippi River basin and its tributaries has killed 45 people and caused at least \$10 billion in damages over the past two months.

3 killed by tornado

A tornado charged through the historic city of Petersburg, Virginia, Friday, toppling buildings and killing at least three people in a shopping mall that witnesses said was sliced open. Nearly 150 people were hurt.

The storm devastated this economically depressed city's most precious quarter, known as old town Petersburg, which has several civil war-era buildings that withstood union troop barges in 1864-65.

I'm able to attend the U.N. General Assembly session or in November, when a summit meeting (of leaders of the Asia-Pacific region) is scheduled in Seattle," he said as he headed for his first full day at the prime minister's residence.

The birth of a new government — that brings Japan its first genuine leadership change in four decades — was long and anguished.

The outgoing LDP, reluctant to hand over power without a struggle, employed delaying tactics to postpone Mr. Hosokawa's election in parliament for almost two days, stalling the formal launch of his government until Monday.

Emperor Akihito left in the midst of the turmoil to represent Japan at Saturday's state funeral for Belgium's King Baudouin. He returns Monday to swear in the new cabinet.

Mr. Hosokawa's first order of business late Friday was to name Masayoshi Takemura, leader of an LDP splinter party in the coalition and a close ally, to the post of chief cabinet secretary.

Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of the LDP breakaway Japan Renewal Party (JRP), is widely tipped to become deputy premier and foreign minister. Kozo Watanabe, an ex-trade minister who also comes from the JRP, is expected to be named finance minister.

"We look forward to working

with him on a host of bilateral, regional issues we've got going," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers.

She recalled that President Bill Clinton, who visited Tokyo last month, has said the U.S.-Japanese relationship is one of America's most important.

She said there were no plans for Mr. Clinton to meet Mr. Hosokawa in the near future "but I'm sure they'll meet."

South Korea Saturday welcomed the birth of a new Japanese government and said it hoped relations between the two nations would continue to improve.

"We welcome the inauguration of the new Japanese government... and hope the close and friendly cooperative relations existing between the two nations will further develop based on common ideas and values," a South Korean Foreign Ministry statement said.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori congratulated Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa on his election and invited him to Peru for an official visit, the presidential palace announced.

"We plan to extend a big welcome as befits the friendship that has existed between our people for the past 120 years, which we will commemorate during August," the president's office said in its message to Mr. Hosokawa.



European Swimming Championships

Rare trebles for Gillingham and Plewinski

SHEFFIELD (R) — Nick Gillingham extracted revenge and Catherine Plewinski upstaged teenage prodigy Franziska Van Almsick as Britain and France celebrated rare golden trebles at the European Swimming Championships Friday.

Gillingham slew the demons of defeat with a stirring victory in the 200 metres breaststroke over Hungarian Karoly Guttler. His world record breaking conqueror in the 100 on Tuesday.

Plewinski, a small packet of determination, succeeded where all others had failed and beat the long and lean German Van Almsick in the women's 100 metres butterfly.

Gillingham and Plewinski joined a select band who have won an event at three successive European Championships, including the likes of Vladimir Salnikov, Michael Gross, Adrian Moorhouse and Tomas Darny.

Former East German Sylvia Gerasch, world champion at 17 back in 1986, struck another blow for the older swimmer with victory in the women's 100 metres breaststroke eight years after she first won the event.

But the first final gave youth its fling as 19-year-old Finn Antti Kasvio and 18-year-old Briton Paul Palmer elbowed their elders aside in a thrilling men's 400 metres freestyle.

Gillingham earned the biggest

choers from the home crowd, banishing Hungarian nightmares just as he had at the last European Championships in Athens in 1991.

Two years ago, world champion Norbert Rozsa romped away with the 100 breaststroke but succumbed to Gillingham in the 200.

This year, with Rozsa seeking a new life in Australia, Guttler broke his compatriot's world record in the 100 heats, won his first major championship title ahead of Gillingham in the final but bowed to the Briton in the 200.

Guttler stormed through the first half of the 200 with Gillingham behind but both inside world record pace.

Gillingham, at 26 the oldest finalist, gradually closed the gap and hit the front on the last length, forging ahead to win by nearly a second.

He won in two minutes 12.49 seconds, well outside American Mike Barrowman's 2:10.16 world record, but it was victory that mattered.

"The pace was very quick... (but) I know my pace so well that I knew I had to come back," Gillingham, who won Olympic silver in 1988 and bronze in 1992, said.

"I knew I was challenging Karoly. It was all about winning and telling myself to go for the gold. I can't stop shaking. I've

never been shaking so much after a race.

"It's a sheer pleasure swimming in front of your home crowd. The sound coming down on the last 50 metres was just incredible."

Sprint gold in Popov's sights

Alexander Popov outprinted his rivals in 50 metres freestyle heats Saturday to line up his second individual gold of the European Swimming Championships.

The tall Russian, Olympic gold medalist in the 50 and 100 freestyle and 4x100 freestyle relay, looked set to achieve the same treble again.

With two golds already in his possession, Popov clocked 22.33 seconds to equal the championship record set by German Nils Rudolph in 1991 and beat short-course world record holder Mark Foster of Britain (22.60) in the penultimate heat.

Christophe Kalfayan of France (22.51) and Raimundas Maziulis of Lithuania (22.56) came closest to Popov's time in winning their heats.

Fellow Russian Evgeny Sadoviy, a disappointment at Sheffield after winning three golds at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, pulled out of the 1,500 metres freestyle heats.

Sadoviy, Olympic 200 and 400 freestyle and 4x200 freestyle relay gold medalist, had to settle for silver in the 200 here and was never in the hunt in Friday's 400 final, finishing fifth.

Germany's Joerg Hoffmann installed himself as favourite for his third successive European 1,500 gold with the fastest qualifying time of 15 minutes 25.81 seconds for Sunday's final ahead of Evgeny Logvinov of Ukraine (15:26.67).

Martin Lopez-Zubero, who lost his 200 backstroke title to Russian Vladimir Selkov on Thursday, led qualifiers in his defence of the 100 crown.

Fellow Russian Denis Pankratov looked set for a great battle with defending champion Franck Esposito of France in the men's 20 metres butterfly.

Poland's Rafal Szukala, who beat Pankratov for the 100 butterfly gold Wednesday, was third overall and in the medal frame again after silvers in the 200 in the last two European championships.

Germany's Daniela Hunger, 1988 Olympic champion, qualified fifth overall in her bid to win the women's 200 metres individual medley title for the third successive time.

Daria Shmeleva, Tuesday's 400 individual medley silver medalist, was marginally fastest in 2:18.30.

Graf, Sanchez-Vicario in semifinals

Sampras, Bruguera advance; Ivanisevic eliminated

CARLSBAD, California (Agencies) — World number one Steffi Graf outlasted seventh-seeded Mary Pierce of France 6-3 6-4 in a blistering baseline battle on Friday to move into the semifinals of the \$375,000 Mazda Classic.

The top-seeded German will clash with third-seeded Conchita Martinez, a 6-3 6-2 winner over fifth seed Magdalena Malecva of Bulgaria. Graf holds an 8-0 career mark over the Spaniard.

Qualifier Marketa Kochta, another German, advanced to her first major semifinal. The world's 173rd-ranked player beat 17-year-old Elena Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan 6-1 6-2.

A second German-Spanish semifinal was set up when second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario beat 11th-seeded American Ann Grossman 6-0 6-0 in 61 minutes in the day's last quarter-final match.

Graf, who won consecutive titles here in 1988 and 1989, has not looked sharp in her two victories in the previous rounds. However, the 24-year-old German felt better about her game in her first-ever meeting with the hard-hitting Pierce.

"It is definitely a big improvement from the other two matches," said Graf, the reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion, of the one hour, 38 minute victory. "I didn't make as many mistakes."

Pierce, ranked 14th in the world, displayed a punishing ground game and had eight break opportunities in the opening set but couldn't convert any.

Graf said that was the key to the victory.

"I played the important points better. When it was important I played very well," she said.

Graf wasn't at her best but was still too good for the French player, who committed 35 unforced errors compared to Graf's 15.

Pierce said she had fun despite the loss, and agreed that her inability to play the big points hampered her chances.

"I think that's what's missing for me. I'm always having close matches against top players but the big points always seem to make the difference."

Pierce said she had mixed feelings about her first encounter with Graf.

"I think it's the match I enjoyed the most," she said. "I was having so much fun."

"It's just a great feeling when you play really well against the number one. You have great points, you hit great shots, and that shows me that I have the game to beat the top players."

"But then again it was another



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

match that I played really close but came out losing," she added. "I just need to concentrate better and make less mistakes."

Sampras swamps McEnroe: In Los Angeles, Pete Sampras blasted to aces past Patrick McEnroe in a 7-5, 6-2 victory that advanced him to the semifinals of the Volvo-Los Angeles tournament.

Sampras, the top seed and world's No. 1 player, will meet fourth-seeded Richard Krajicek, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over No. 5 seed Alexander Volkov of Russia, in the semifinals.

Michael Chang needed 2 hours and 21 minutes for his first career victory over Andrei Krikstein, 4-6, 6-3 6-2. Krikstein won all four of their previous matches.

"It's nice whenever you break a string like that," Chang said. "He's been a very tough player for me. He was up a set and a break and I just tried to move him around."

Chuck Adams staged the tournament's biggest upset with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory over No. 2 seed Michael Stich of Germany.

Adams, a 22-year-old from nearby Pacific Palisades who is

ranked 86th in the world will play Chang in the other semifinal.

While Krikstein has abandoned a serve-and-volley game, Chang, known for his baseline play, went to the net several times.

"He is definitely more aggressive now," Krikstein said. "He's always been a tough guy to play. He's always fast."

Krajicek had 10 aces in an easy victory over Volkov. Krajicek and Sampras are two of the biggest servers in the game.

Krajicek later withdrew from a doubles match because his right knee is bothering him.

"My right knee is becoming a little uncomfortable," he said. "I've had some problem adjusting from grass and clay to the hard courts."

Ivanisevic eliminated: In Kitzbuehel, Austria, Germany's Bernd Karbacher beat top seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia in two straight sets to advance to the semifinals of the \$400,000 Head Cup.

Swiftly breaking back after losing his first service game, a dogged Karbacher played the fast-serving Croat to 6-6 in the first

set, and took the tiebreaker 7-5.

Ivanisevic, always a temperamental player, disintegrated in the second set. His normally strong serve abandoned him, leading to repeated double faults, and was slowed by the damp clay court.

Karbacher swept home 6-2, even managing nine aces compared to his opponent's five.

Ivanisevic barely shook hands at the end of the match and left the court without speaking to reporters.

"I saw that I could get him," said the German, who now meets Spain's Javier Sanchez in the semifinals. "In this form, I'm even a favourite to win the tournament."

Sanchez reached the semifinals by beating Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy 6-3, 6-2.

Home favourite Thomas Muster of Austria had no problem with Youness El Aynaoui of Morocco, ranked 88th in the world, powering past him 6-1, 6-3.

Austrian media had built the match into a big confrontation after the North African beat Sanchez' brother, Emilio, who has twice won the Kitzbuehel tournament.

Muster, seeded No. 3, now meets No. 2 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, who beat Jan Siemerin 6-4, 6-4.

Medvedev and Karbacher, who is seeded No. 8, both have acquired reputations this year as giantkillers and may now be headed for a meeting in Sunday's final.

Bruguera advances to semifinals: In Prague, Czech Republic, Sergi Bruguera defeated Jordi Arrese, both of Spain, in their quarterfinals match at the \$365,000 Skoda Czech Open men's tennis championship in Prague.

The top-seeded Bruguera beat Arrese, the 1990 winner of the tournament, in only two sets 6-2, 6-1 and will meet Russia's Andrei Cherkasov in the semifinals.

In another quarterfinals match, second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden outplayed seventh-seeded Nicklas Kulti also of Sweden 4-6, 6-3, 6-0, and will meet another Russian player, Andrei Chesnokov, in the semifinals.

Cherkasov defeated sixth-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain 6-3, 7-5, and the third-seeded Chesnokov beat Paul Haarhuis of Netherlands 6-2, 6-2.

"The match was not as easy as it looked," Chesnokov said after the match. "But I was patient and Haarhuis did not show everything he knows and made too many mistakes."

Barcelona a year after: Sports success, some money problems

BARCELONA (AP) — Jordi Vallverdu's job is to find tenants for the centerpiece of last year's Summer Olympics Montjuic Olympic Stadium and the Sant Jordi Arena.

It's not an easy sell in a country mired in a recession probably exacerbated by Olympian spending for the games.

"There's no doubt the economic crisis here coincided with the end of the games," said Vallverdu, managing director of Barcelona Promocion.

The private corporation set up four years ago to manage sports venues built for the games, has made a profit every year, Vallverdu said.

The firm also manages two other sports facilities used in last year's games, but the Palau Sant Jordi — where they played handball, volleyball and staged the gymnastics — is the money maker. Without it, the four combined would lose money.

"This year we'll make a profit again, but we're working 20 percent to 30 percent harder to find bookings," Vallverdu added, standing on the Olympic stadium's all-weather track.

The U.S. National Football League's Pittsburgh Steelers and San Francisco 49er drew \$45,000

for an exhibition American football game in Olympic stadium last week and rock star Prince is expected to jam the place later this month. Across the street at Palau Sant Jordi, rock groups like U-2, Dire Straits and Sting keep the bills paid.

The games closed Aug. 9, 1992 — and almost everyone in Spain's second city proudly calls them a sporting success. They glamorized the city and left behind Europe's most extensive urban renewal project and world-class sports facilities.

Most of the venues have been put to a use for sports. A few like the D'Alfonso Velodrome — which doesn't hold enough cycling races to support itself — has been used as an outdoor dance club.

But there has been a price to pay — and some say there was also an aesthetic price.

The public debt from the games is accepted to be 140 billion pesetas (\$1.4 billion), which is being shared by Barcelona and the central government in Madrid. The debt is to be paid off by 2009.

"For the average citizen, the most important thing was the new highway system that now rings the city," said Orfeo Suarez, a journalist with the Barcelona dai-

ly La Vanguardia. "This city is hemmed in by the sea on one side and mountains on the other and before traffic was awful."

Across Spain unemployment has soared to 12 per cent — the highest in the European community — to go with a ballooning budget deficit and negative economic growth predicted for this year.

In Barcelona, some local taxes are up and more than 5,000 angry merchants demonstrated in front of city hall when a business tax was hiked by 30 per cent.

"We might have overdone it a bit," said a cab driver echoing a growing sentiment. "We had the Olympics here, the world's fair in Seville — that's a lot in one year. Now we pay."

Government agencies and private investors spent 930 billion pesetas (\$9.3 billion) to prepare this Mediterranean port for the 1992 Summer Games. About \$7.5 billion pesetas (\$875 million) went to build sports facilities, the rest for infrastructure like highways and a new airport. The private sector invested 320 billion pesetas (\$3.2 billion) and the public sector 610 billion pesetas (\$6.1 billion).

Barcelona's dream-like 19th century art Nouveau architecture still captivates, but there's more steel, concrete and glass than before. Some see a "white elephant" in the Olympic village that housed more than 9,000 athletes for the games.

The 12-square-block Olympic village is a virtually uninhabited complex of apartments and parks. The deserted urban landscape is striking in a country with Europe's most vibrant street life and makes ultra-modern street and wood sculptures seem very large and out of place.

All but a few of the 2,000 apartments are looking for owners willing to pay between 20 million and 50 million pesetas (\$200,000 and \$500,000) for relatively small flats. The area now has a new beach and new harbor just a five-minute walk away — also part of the Olympic restoration.

"You go through here at night, it's all black and you see no lights on in the windows," said Miguel Chale, who lives in an adjacent neighbourhood with his wife, Arantxa Gonzalez. "It's a bit sad now the way it's abandoned. We couldn't afford it, but I hope they find buyers."

McRae opens lead in New Zealand Rally

AUCKLAND (R) — Young Scottish driver Colin McRae carries a lead of 15 seconds into Sunday's final day of the World Championship Rally on New Zealand, hoping to become the first British winner of a World Rally event since the mid 1970s.

If McRae can continue to victory through the final 73 kilometre of special stages, it will be his first win in the World Championship, and the first for the Subaru factory.

McRae — son of five-times British rally champion Jimmy McRae — began Saturday in second place, two seconds behind French Toyota driver Didier Auriol.

Victory in the first special stage tied him with Auriol and then he gradually pulled away. Ford driver Francois Delecourt of France also passed Auriol to end the day 15 seconds behind McRae and 19 seconds ahead of Auriol.

The situation places McRae under considerable pressure — especially with the factory demanding a win from the team — but team manager John Spiller said his driver was quite happy and relaxed — "just chuffing along."

The last British driver to win a World Championship Rally was the legendary Roger Clark in the mid 1970s.

The Subaru Legacy has been developed for the factory over the last three years by the British Prodrive Team, based in Banbury, Oxfordshire. This is the second-last Rally for the Legacy before it is replaced by the smaller Impreza.

Auriol said it was a slight handicap that, as overnight leader, he had to run first on the road all day. This meant that he encountered the heaviest gravel — and helped clear the way for other drivers.

"But the real problem was a fault with the differential. I try and try but there is no grip at the back," he said. "But they have fixed it now and the car is very good."

Ford team boss Melvyn Hodgson said Delecourt would be instructed to go all out for victory tomorrow, to get as many World Championship points as possible.

Manchester United win Charity Shield

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United, beaten by Arsenal in South Africa recently, exacted their revenge at Wembley Saturday when they beat the FA Cup winners in their English Charity Shield Clash.

The champions needed a sudden-death penalty shoot-out to triumph in the traditional pre-season curtain-raiser after the sides had drawn 1-1, but they were not complaining after being denied a clear spotkick in the second half, when Arsenal midfielder John Jensen appeared to bring down Paul Ince.

Wales striker Mark Hughes had fired United ahead by volleying in Eric Cantona's cross in the seventh minute, but that goal was cancelled out by a looping 18-yard drive from Arsenal's England forward, Ian Wright.

Wright turned villain, though, in the shoot-out, dragging his penalty wide to tie the first set of spotkicks 4-4 after Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman had brilliantly saved Denis Irwin's effort.

When the shoot-out went to sudden death, former England skipper Bryan Robson netted for United, but Seaman's kick was saved by his opposite number, Danish international Peter Schmeichel.

The fact that the match had ended in penalties left a bad taste among the 66,519 crowd, many of whom booed when it was announced that a shoot-out would settle an absorbing match.

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Not later than August 13, 1993.

GOREN BRIDGE

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#410875 #AJ93 62 #8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1* Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You are in slam territory, but not necessarily in spades. North could easily have a four-card heart suit on this auction, and you shouldn't overlook this possibility. Bid three hearts.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#407 #AKQ #KJ654 #43
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—We have written time and again that there are two criteria for a jump shift: either a self-sufficient suit of your own or an excellent fit for partner's suit. This hand meets neither, so for the moment be content with a response of one diamond. You can catch up later.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#AQ10 #A96 #QJ9 #8762
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
A.—You have a balanced hand of 13 points, and that meets the textbook requirements for a jump response of two no-trump. There's no need to look for any other bid, even playing five-card majors! You can always support spades later if partner shows an unbalanced hand.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#8663 #K643 #64 #Q95
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—You do not have much, but your hand is just worth a response. By revealing the queen in partner's suit upward and adding a point for the doubleton, it qualifies for a bid of one heart—barely.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#942 #A8 #7432 #J1095
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two diamonds. What do you respond?
A.—Despite a side ace and four-card support for partner's suit, we don't think your holding quite measures up to a positive response. Bid two no trump; you can become aggressive later.

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
#A106 #AQJ10854 #95 #3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 7 Pass 2 4 Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—This message you want to get across to partner is that your suit is good enough to play opposite a void! The way to do that is to jump to four hearts. Three hearts would be an error—it promises more in the way of high cards than you hold, and suggests alternative contracts might be available.

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	HUDSON HAWK		Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic)		INDOCHINE		For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: The Assassination of Hantallah by artist Saeed Bitar Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance	THE THEATRE IS CLOSED because the "Welcome Arab Summit" play is being presented at the Palace of Culture at 8:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 2 & 3. Tickets available at the Palace of Culture.
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.			

Belgians, world pay homage to King Baudouin

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's Queen Fabiola, dressed strikingly all in white, led the funeral homages to her husband Saturday as Belgians put aside bitter linguistic differences in a common expression of grief for King Baudouin.

Tributes read at a funeral mass delicately balanced between the country's two languages ranged from a letter from a former prostitute to an AIDS sufferer's thanks to the king.

The funeral broke with Catholic convention and followed the queen's wish for it to be a "ceremony of glory and hope" for a king who united Dutch and French-speaking communities.

Queen Fabiola had chosen celebratory music and urged mourners not to wear black for the farewell to the man known as "the sad king." She also reduced official mourning to one week after the government had announced it would last until Sept. 7, the birthday of the king.

"There are kings who are more than kings, they are their peoples' shepherds. They don't just reign, they love, to the point of giving their own lives — such as King Baudouin," Cardinal Godfried D'Erckelaere said at the mass.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Emperor Akihito of Japan, and President Francois Mitterrand of France joined the Queen and Belgium's future King Prince Albert in Saint Michel Cathedral.

A former Antwerp prostitute from the Philippines whom the king helped send in a letter read out for her: "He was standing up for us. He was a real king. I called him my friend. Now we cry again. We lost our friend."

King Baudouin led a crusade against the sexual trade in women and children and made a high-profile visit to a brothel in the port of Antwerp last year to listen to the prostitutes' own stories.

He died suddenly aged 62 last Saturday. His brother Prince Albert will be sworn in as king on Monday.

The queen, flanked by Prince Albert and the king's sister Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte of Luxembourg, walked slowly behind the faired coffin drawn on a gun carriage by an armoured car from the royal palace to the cathedral.

Behind her came a phalanx of foreign dignitaries, among them Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain, who had chosen to join the cortege.

The thousands of people lining the route stood in silent tribute, the only sounds the clatter of horses' hooves as 144 lancers of the royal escort went by, the tolling of a church bell and the echo of a 21-gun salute.

During the mass the queen put her arms round the children of Princess Astrid, the daughter of Prince Albert, in a gesture of comfort characteristic of the sincerity and simplicity for which she and her husband were known.

"Crowds jammed the square in front of the cathedral and old Brussels' historic grand place to follow the mass on loudspeakers and a giant television screen. Many wept openly as Flemish singer Will Tura sang 'I miss You So'."

Silence fell again as the coffin was carried down the steps to the waiting gun carriage for the final journey to the royal place at Laeken on the outskirts of Brussels, where the king will be buried in the family crypt.

As Queen Fabiola got into her car the crowd broke into spontaneous applause. She clasped her hands in a gesture of thanks and placed them on her heart.

For a day Belgium set aside the linguistic differences that have brought down most of the 38 governments since World War II in an outpouring of grief for the king who was, in the words of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, "A profoundly good man."

The Belgians have forgotten their linguistic problems today, which is a very good thing," said George Schmit, a teacher from the city of Liege, who as an army conscript was in the guard of honour at the king's wedding in 1960.

Mr. Schmit was among thousands of people who arrived early — some sleeping on the pavement overnight — to be sure of getting a good view as the funeral cortege arrived at the cathedral.

"I have many reasons to be proud of our king. But if he could see us today he would be proud of us," said Xavier Deutsch, who spent the night under a blanket on the pavement.

Some foreign leaders, like Queen Elizabeth and Emperor Akihito, took the unusual step of attending the funeral personally because they counted the king a friend.

Their presence caused a security headache and every building around the cathedral square was lined with army and police snipers. Ropes hung down the sides of buildings so that elite troops could intervene in the event of trouble.

A police sniffer dog checked the flowers which turned the steps of the cathedral into a multicoloured carpet.

Emergency services staff and scouts handed out 15,000 cans of water and 300 large boxes of biscuits to the crowd.

Dr. Robert Faniel, who headed up some of the medical teams, said extra staff had been laid on because of the security risk.

"We were very afraid of a bomb or something like that. But thankfully this has not happened," he said after the funeral.

The mood visibly lifted after the mass as the crowd turned to celebrity spotting when almost 1,000 monarchs, heads-of-state and foreign dignitaries emerged from the cathedral.



Queen Fabiola (centre) and her family hold hands during the funeral mass in Brussels Saturday (AFP photo)

Judge in New York blast to summon 5,000 jurors

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The federal judge handling the World Trade Centre bombing case says he will summon an unprecedented 5,000 potential jurors for the trial against four of the defendants to start next month.

U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy also said Friday he had considered moving the trial out of New York but that he doubted such a move would do any good in finding an impartial jury.

Jury selection is set to begin on Sept. 14 in Manhattan federal court.

Mr. Duffy told lawyers in the case he had sent out "perhaps the largest number of jury summonses ever sent out in this district."

He later said that 5,000 people would be summoned to be considered for the trial. Such trials usually have 12 jurors, plus a variable number of alternate jurors.

Prosecutors said it will take them eight to 10 weeks to present the government's case against the four defendants accused of carrying out the Feb. 26 bombing at the landmark twin towers. Six people died and more than 1,000 were injured.

Defence lawyers said they have no idea how long it will take them to make their case.

The four scheduled to go on trial are: Mahmud Abouhalima, the alleged ringleader, Mohamed Salameh, who allegedly rented the van used in the bombing, Nidal Ayyad, a chemical engineer, who authorities say manufactured the bomb, and Ahmad Mohammad Ajaj, who allegedly brought bomb-making manuals into the United States.

Two other suspects, Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Rahman Yasin, are fugitives and believed to be in Iraq.

The seventh suspect, Bilal Alkaisy, is due to be tried separately at a later date although his lawyer says the government's case against Mr. Alkaisy is weak and will never go to trial.

Saying he doubted a jury could be found that knew nothing of the bombing, Mr. Duffy said, "I'm not sure I can find any place within the United States with a population that has no knowledge whatsoever of the incident."

"So I'm leaning mostly in keeping the case here (in New York)," he said.

The judge made his remarks as lawyers for the four defendants entered innocent pleas to a new indictment charging them with conspiracy in the bombing.

The new indictment also adds immigration charges against three defendants and charges all of them with injuring three Secret Service agents who were in the trade centre garage when the bomb went off.

Mr. Duffy has asked potential jurors to report Sept. 14 for a trial that is expected to last into next year, with prosecutors taking eight to 10 weeks to present their case. The jury will be anonymous but will not be sequestered, he said.

The judge also warned lawyers that the trial must start on time. "This trial should be the top thing on your schedule. The only way you're getting out of it is by death," Mr. Duffy said.

The new indictment added Abdul Rahman Yasin, 33, of Jersey City, to the case.

Lebanon's U.S. envoy resigns

CAIRO (R) — The Lebanese ambassador to the United States resigned because Foreign Minister Faris Bourez failed to pass on a report predicting Israel's bombardment of South Lebanon, Arab diplomats said Saturday.

They said Ambassador Simon Karam sent a report to the Foreign Ministry at least a week before the air and artillery assault began on July 25 saying he had information that Israel was preparing for action.

Mr. Bourez informed Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, who is his father-in-law, but did not pass the report to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who is at odds with Mr. Hrawi.

The diplomats said Mr. Hariri found out about the report after the week-long offensive, which killed 130 people and drove more than 500,000 from their homes, and was furious. A few days' warning might have given the government time to launch a diplomatic campaign to prevent the Israeli action.

Mr. Hariri lobbied to sack Mr. Bourez but failed because of the foreign minister's close relations with the president and with Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

Mr. Karam finally resigned in disgust, the diplomats said.

Radio Lebanon quoted Mr. Karam as saying on Friday that it had become impossible for him to continue his work in a way that satisfied his conscience and national convictions.

Embassy officials in Washington confirmed on Friday that Mr. Karam had resigned.

Rebels, Sudanese officials hold talks

Combined agency dispatches

KHARTOUM — Senior southern Sudan rebel leaders have held first-ever official talks with a government delegation on Sudanese soil, state media reported Saturday.

The state-run daily Al Engaz Al Watani said a government delegation led by Upper Nile Governor Paul Khatun had met Lam Akol, leader of a faction of the divided Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The previously unannounced talks, held in Fashoda some 70 kilometres from Malakal, capital of Upper Nile state, were the first between the Islamic-backed military government and southern rebels to be held within Sudan.

State television also reported the meeting, broadcasting pictures of Mr. Akol in military fatigues emerging from the Fashoda talks.

Also present at the government-held town were Rek Mashaer, Mr. Akol's second in command, Ahmad Al Radi Jabir, chairman of the peace committee of the Transitional National Assembly, and Fadlulsi Abu Gaisa, director of the state-run Peace and Development Foundation.

Mr. Akol was quoted by the paper as saying the talks had been conducted "in a good spirit" and that they had "achieved remarkable progress."

Mr. Jabir, a member of the government delegation, said the two sides had agreed to set up a 10-member committee, with five representatives from each side, to organise efforts for peace and relief in the Upper Nile area.

The meeting is likely to rekindle the controversy within the SPLA since the "united faction"

of Mr. Akol broke away from the mainstream movement headed by John Garang.

Colonel Garang's faction accuses the "united faction" of fighting against it alongside government troops. It also alleges Khartoum has been supplying it with arms.

The joint committee hoped to issue a "Fashoda peace charter," said Mr. Jabir, adding that both parties to the talks were convinced that "peace should be sought from within the Upper Nile."

The two sides agreed to work to overcome disagreements that surfaced during talks between rebels and the government in peace talks in the Kenyan capital Nairobi in May.

They further agreed to guarantee safety of Nile River barges for delivery of food to the area.

According to the newspaper report, the meeting was hosted by the new chairman of the Shuhuk tribe. Mr. Akol is a Shuhuk, one of the Nilotic tribes of southern Sudan.

Carter in Khartoum

News of the talks came as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Khartoum to continue his attempts to mediate in the civil war between southern rebels and the government.

Mr. Carter told reporters he had come to Sudan for talks with both "leaders of the Islamic movement and government officials" to discuss peace efforts and safe delivery of relief to refugees in southern Sudan.

The former U.S. president arrived from Nairobi, where he had talks with Col. Garang's faction of the SPLA.

U.S. Congress panel wants Sudan on 'terrorist' list

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee has approved a resolution urging the United States to place Sudan on its list of states that support "international terrorism."

The resolution approved by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa also calls on the United Nations to impose an arms embargo on Sudan and to establish safe havens for victims of Sudan's civil war and famine.

Congressman Harry Johnston, chairman of the Africa subcommittee, who recently returned from a visit to southern Sudan, spoke about the resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 131, during an Aug. 4 hearing.

"An entire generation of southern Sudanese is being wiped out in one of the world's most neglected civil wars. Children caught between the bloody civil war and a devastating famine are dying by the hundreds each day in part because of the indifference of the international community," Mr. Johnston, a Democrat from Florida, said.

"In Somalia 300,000 people had to die before the international community acted. We cannot afford to once again ignore the plight of the helpless. I say enough is enough. It is time to act."

"House Concurrent Resolution 131, during an Aug. 4 hearing."

"I hope that Khartoum gets the message... We are determined to save the people of southern Sudan from the inhuman suffering inflicted upon them. Let us be very clear about one thing. The blame for that suffering rests squarely on the shoulders of the Khartoum regime," Mr. Burton said.

The non-binding resolution now goes to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs and then to the full House of Representatives for consideration. Further action on the resolution is expected after the summer recess, in mid-September.

Jailed Britons not convicted of adultery — UAE lawyer

DUBAI (R) — Two Britons sentenced in the Emirate of Sharjah to one year's imprisonment for cohabitation were just sharing a house and were not convicted of adultery, their lawyer said Friday.

Hafez Tabboub said Peter Wade, 41, and Yvonne Campbell, 37, both denied adultery in court and were convicted only of living in the same house while Yvonne was still married to another man, Kenneth Campbell.

British newspapers have described the woman as Peter's common-law wife and diplomats said she now preferred to be known as Wade rather than Campbell.

Mr. Tabboub said she applied for a divorce from Mr. Campbell earlier this year but was still known as Yvonne Campbell.

"Islamic law says that adultery can only be punished if both parties admit to it in front of a judge or if four witnesses saw the two having sexual relations," Mr. Tabboub added.

He told Reuters an appeal against the sentence would be heard in 10 days.

Yvonne Campbell and her four children, aged between two months and 10 years old, were released on bail Thursday on condition she stayed nearby pending the appeal, he said. Mr. Tabboub said he expected Peter Wade to be released on bail imminently.

She had no money because he left for Oman to go and work," the lawyer said.

"Peter Wade was a friend and he and others suggested she went and lived with him," he added.

Mr. Tabboub said that when she filed for divorce, Mr. Campbell "went to the police and claimed that she was living with someone else and was pregnant with his (Wade's) baby."

He said she had earlier confessed to police that she committed adultery with Peter Wade "because she thought she could get her divorce more quickly."

She retracted the confession in court, he added.

Mr. Tabboub said Yvonne, who spent two nights in prison, had asked for her children to be with her in jail because she feared they might otherwise be abducted by Mr. Campbell.

Local officials said they were surprised at what they called a "British media outcry" over the affair. British newspapers have flown reporters out to Sharjah to cover the case.

"We don't see any cause for all this noise... foreign diplomatic and consular missions which take care of their citizens' rights should respect the laws of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)," the newspaper Al Khaleej quoted a Justice Ministry official as saying.

"The UAE's judiciary is fair and fully independent and we do not think that this noise will hamper the judicial process," he added.

COLUMN

Lottery winners collect \$111m prize

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin (AP) — Leslie C. Robins returned Friday to the supermarket where he bought a record \$111 million lottery ticket, picking up a ceremonial check of \$55,620,231.55 while his fiancée did the same. They said they would keep their jobs and they hope — their values. About 300 people waved and took pictures as Robins and Colleen Devries — he dressed in shorts and she in blue jeans — arrived at the Sentry Supermarket for the ceremony. "Obviously our lives are going to change," Robins said at a news conference afterward.

"Our lifestyle may change, but we hope to keep our values the same." Both said they intend to continue their careers. He is an English teacher and she is a nurse. The payoff from a Powerball Lottery drawing July 7 is the largest sum for a lone ticket holder in the history of U.S. lotteries. Robins delayed cashing it, however, until he was assured that the lottery would issue separate checks to him and his fiancée, who have lived together for two years. Dane County Circuit Judge Gerald Nichol granted the wish Thursday. Even split in half, the jackpot for each of them is larger than the previous largest lottery prize in U.S. history going to an individual. A Florida woman won \$55.16 million in a 1989 drawing. Friday's checks are just for show. Robins, 30, and Devries, 24, will share the money in equal installments — minus what the tax collector gets — for the next 20 years.

Attacker's film rape of maid

NICOSIA (AFP) — A 25-year-old Sri Lankan maid was raped by two men in her house here while a third man filmed the scene and a woman took photographs, police said Friday. They said the maid was alone in her employers' house on Thursday when three men and a woman came in, saying they were friends of the owners. But they threatened her with a knife and stripped her while two of the men took turns in raping her. The other man and a woman filmed and took photographs of the attack. Before fleeing the attackers tied her up and gagged the unnamed Sri Lankan maid. Police said the woman, who is in a state of shock, was recovering in hospital. "In over 30 years of police experience I never imagined something like this could happen," Nicosia's Police Criminal Intelligence Department head Nathanael Papageorgiou said.

Nitrogen dominates Pluto's atmosphere

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Scientists have discovered that Pluto is covered with ice that is 98 per cent nitrogen which, probably produces an atmosphere that is mostly nitrogen gas rather than methane as previously believed, NASA announced Friday. It was the first time that nitrogen was clearly detected on the distant planet, located some 4.8 billion kilometres (three billion miles) from Earth, according to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials. Carbon monoxide was also detected for the first time. Methane was detected on Pluto's surface in 1976. "Rather than methane as previously thought, it appears that frozen nitrogen dominates the surface," said Ted Roush with NASA's Ames Research Centre in California. The observations were made in Hawaii with a new instrument on the United Kingdom Infrared Telescope in May 1992. According to researchers, the discovery means that the thin atmosphere layer around Pluto is made mostly of nitrogen, a colourless, odourless and tasteless gaseous chemical element which forms nearly four fifths of the Earth's atmosphere. Pluto, the only planet in the solar system yet to be explored by spacecraft, is smaller than the Earth's moon. Its size, surface and atmospheric composition resemble that of Neptune's moon Triton, which scientists say suggests the two were formed in a similar area in the solar nebula.

Top Malaysian official's stolen car may be in Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba's stolen Mercedes Benz 300SE may have been smuggled into Cambodia, police said Saturday. Malaysia was seeking the assistance of the Cambodian police to help trace the car which was reported stolen last May, CID Director Zaman Khan said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saddam to give speech on Iran-Iraq war

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is scheduled to give a televised speech Sunday to mark the fifth anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the third anniversary of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. Iraq in the past week has warned Iran against border incursions in the north and marked the third anniversary of its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait by renewing its claim to the oil-rich emirate. The speech scheduled for 11 a.m. marks the "day of days" when the "Iraqi people and the Arab Nation received the good news of victory" over Iran, the Iraqi News Agency said Saturday. Iraq celebrates Aug. 8, 1988 as the end of its eight-year war with Iran.

March in Britain over deportation death

LONDON (R) — More than 1,000 people marched through north London on Saturday to protest over the death of a Jamaican woman during an attempted deportation that has threatened to inflame racial tensions. Protesters jeered and chanted "murderers" outside the police station whose officers were involved in the attempt to deport 40-year-old Joy Gardner, who died last week after an apparent struggle with police. Police had braced for possible violence that might recall race riots of the 1980s, but the march passed off without serious incident and organisers complained the dangers had been exaggerated in news reports. London's police chief has suspended three police immigration officers pending an inquiry into Ms. Gardner's collapse at her London home after a scuffle. Ms. Gardner, who came to Britain six years ago on a tourist visa, had unsuccessfully applied for permission to stay. The circumstances of her death remain unclear but unconfirmed reports say she was gagged with tape and may have been restrained with a special body belt fitted with manacles.

Russia tells Iraq — special to U.N. or forget trade

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said Friday it backed anti-Iraqi sanctions and told Baghdad not to harbour false hopes over recent bilateral talks, which it said were aimed at sorting out Iraqi debts and not fresh business. "The Russian-Iraqi talks in no way mean Russia's departure from the line of the world community regarding Iraq," Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told a news briefing. "The talks were on many unsolved problems, mainly Iraqi debts." An official delegation led by Russia's deputy minister of foreign economic relations, Oleg Davydov, visited Baghdad this week to discuss the repayment of Iraq's outstanding debts. Russian diplomats told Interfax news agency. The Iraqi News Agency said the two countries signed bilateral trade agreements during the talks. But Mr. Karasin said: "Our firm position is that Iraq should fulfill the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Majali says government keen to serve public

(Continued from page 1)

should be knowledgeable and competent.

Dr. Majali pointed out that combating poverty and unemployment comes only through investment openness as the era of "easy money and aid" had gone.

"The basic challenge we face is to manage our resources and finances in a way that reflects the actual costs and spreads its impact equally and justly amongst us all," the prime minister said.

He added that economic priority requires that "we reduce over-spending and abandon facets of neglect and weakness, starting from putting off a lamp when light is not needed and upto executing good and efficient management which curbs routine and puts itself at the service of the people."

"Ladies and gentlemen," Dr. Majali declared, "we are servants of the people and not guardians over them."

Dr. Majali said Jordan was at a new stage requiring new policies as it has become inseparable from the public sector administrator companies and commercial and industrial entities or interfere in pricing and other areas under unacceptable pretext.

He said the government would put a programme whereby the private sector would be given its responsibilities in production and delivering services but where the government would strengthen its role of supervision, follow up and fighting corruption and cheating.

The prime minister promised that the government would speed up all private sector needs and requirements without delay by cutting down red tape and providing incentives. But, he noted, reform should not be expected to happen overnight.

He pledged not to raise taxes unnecessarily and not to withhold any beneficial spending. On the contrary, he affirmed, all collected money would be pumped again in the economic cycle at the "highest level of efficiency and justice."

Dr. Majali said the government was determined to make this year's budget a document of "work and directives" by not having a budget for ministries, departments and projects but also a budget for governorates which reflects the recurrent and capital expenditure in each governorate.

As such, the governor along with the responsible directors in the governorate would be the government head in the decentralisation process.

Reinterpretation of law under consideration

(Continued from page 1)

the credibility of our practices in the past."

"Elections should not be held under a law that could be legally contested" and if any new interpretation of the law is made, it should come from the bureau of legislation at the Prime Ministry, he stressed.

At his press conference yesterday, Mr. Hammad left the door open for electoral changes, saying that everything was still under consideration and there were proposals and ideas which were "being studied by all sides."

"There are no specific proposals. There is an opinion to benefit from the experience in the last four years, and this proposal is still being studied by all sides," Mr. Hammad said.

The minister, however, ruled out the possibility of redrawing the voting districts which even supporters of changing the law say must be done if the one-person-one-vote formula is introduced.

"The issue of redrawing the voting districts is behind us now because that would require new registration of voters and the process has been nearly completed," Mr. Hammad said.

The minister rejected criticism that the government is unjustifiably late in announcing its decision on the law which will govern

Jordan Times Sunday.

"(Any new interpretation) would make a mockery of the previous legal interpretation of the law under which the previous parliaments were elected. It would render the Election Law itself illegal," he said.

Mr. Hikmat also said the government would have to be legally accountable on its action if it changed the law through administrative orders which are no longer immune to being contested in court.

Senator Salem Massadeh, who was the minister of interior during the 1989 elections and who was a major player in drawing up the current Election Law, told the Jordan Times Saturday that even though the law does not specifically say that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their districts, "the legislation in its entirety" gives voters that right.

He said a new interpretation of the law will be liable to legal contest and would "cast doubt on

the next elections, saying that 'enough' time remains between now and the election date on Nov. 8.

Political parties and prospective candidates are frustrated by the delay as they are not able to formulate or start their election campaigns. Political parties have recently urged the government to clarify its stand on the fate of the law "as soon as possible."

"I don't believe there is any delay," Mr. Hammad said, "the subject needs discussion and debate." The minister, who as director general of the Ministry of Interior played a major role in conducting the 1989 elections, also said that King Hussein's decision to dissolve Parliament was an indication of the credibility of the regime which would hold elections within their constitutional time.

The dissolution of Parliament was seen by opposition parties, particularly by the Islamists, as a prelude to an inevitable government decision to change the law unilaterally and as a "blow" to democracy.

But, the minister said, "we are the ones who call for the protection of democracy and upholding the constitution and the law."

The leadership of this country is the one which sought to create this (democratic) atmosphere.